

# PC Update

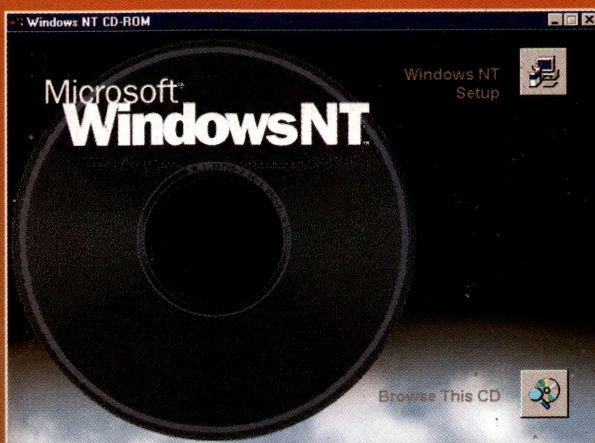
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# WINDOWS

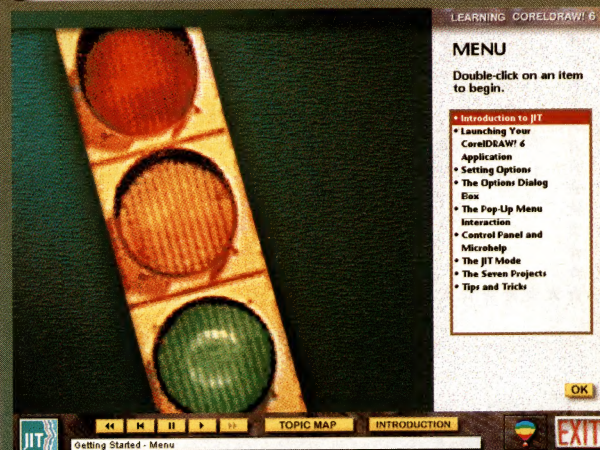
## REVIEWS

- ★ Agent 95
- ★ Noah's Ark
- ★ Norton AntiVirus
- ★ V-Buster 8
- ★ Heaven's Dawn—The Final Hope
- ★ Mimi and the Mites
- ★ Clyde's Revenge
- ★ Learning CorelDRAW! 3 & 6



## FEATURES

- ★ How to get the highest speed out of your modem
- ★ Supporting Windows 95
- ★ A jazz enthusiast's guide to the Internet
- ★ An introduction to Object Resource Brokers
- ★ Windows 95: Dial-up Networking
- ★ Nine ways to kill an organisation



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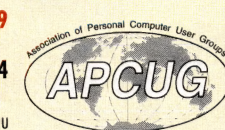
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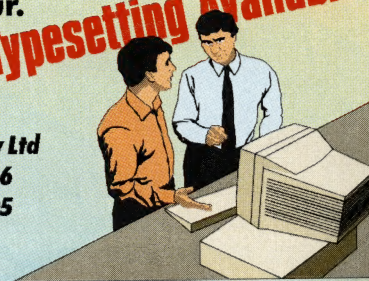
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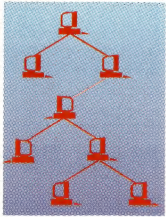
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HELP!



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## Reviews

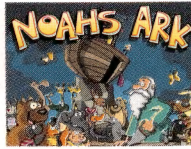
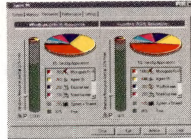


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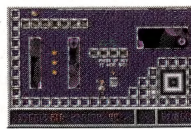


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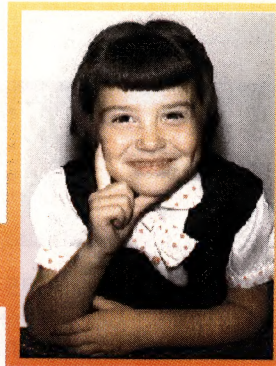
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## WORKING WRITER'S WORDS

Carol Daniels



**T**his month you'll see I've included a list of the themes for the rest of 1996 and all of 1997. Have a look. Any of them take your fancy? It's never too early to start writing a feature article for *PC Update*.

### Looking even further ahead

Have any of you got the jump on the year 2000? I'm looking for some members who want to write about the year 2000, with a focus on what home and SOHO computer users can do to prepare for it. And I don't mean booking a house in Sydney for the Olympics.

There's plenty being written about big business and the potential nightmare the unprepared will face when the final femtosecond of 1999 ticks over and the year 2000 arrives, but there's not a lot of practical information in those articles, not for most home/SOHO users at least.

I'm looking for members to write practical, how-to articles for home and SOHO users, articles that include information about

- What to (and how to) check your hardware and software for potential problems
- Pointers to useful resources, software, test protocols, diagnostics, books, web sites, ftp archives, etc.
- What to do once you've identified potential problems
- How to know when you've solved the problem.

I'm not looking for a single big gulp, more like several little sips

If articles in the general press are any guide, this topic can't be covered in one shot. I'm not looking for anyone to produce the definitive guide to the year 2000 or commit to writing a series. I want members to write about small, manageable portions of the problem. Because even if we end up having to implement the solution in one go, most of us are going to come to grips with the problem bit by bit (no pun intended). So that's the way I'd like to cover it in the magazine.

If you're interested, send me a message, via the BBS, Internet or post (c/- the Melb PC Office).

### One for the hardware heads

I'm also looking for members to interview relevant members of the Melb PC comms team and write about the BBS and the Internet setups. A lot's changed since our last similar feature ([melbpc.org.au](http://melbpc.org.au)—our Internet link, Ash Nallawalla, *PC Update*, June 1995).

The BBS and Internet systems are sufficiently different to warrant separate articles and separate authors. This is a great opportunity to find out more about how these important and valuable club resources run. Without wanting to discourage any member from putting his or her hand up, these articles would be especially well suited to computer science students with an interest in communications or media/journalism students who want to get some experience writing about technology.

To do either topic justice, you will need some familiarity with drawing/charting structural and functional relationships. You don't have to be an electrical engineer or graphic designer. You won't have to produce the finished

artwork. You will have to supply a clear schematic representation of the system setup—from which Peter Smith can produce the finished artwork—to complement your text.

Again, if you're interested, send me a message, via the BBS, Internet or post (c/- the Melb PC Office).

### Time for a tip

I want. I'm looking for. So far this editorial has been gimme, gimme, gimme. Now it's time for me to give you what I hope is a helpful tip. Think of it as a chance to learn from my mistakes.

It can happen to anyone. In fact, according to those in the know, *it will happen to everyone, eventually*. Face it, you will need to use your panic disk. You do have one, don't you? Of course you do. But is yours up-to-date?

No, panic disks don't have use-by dates, but they do need to be updated. When? Anytime you upgrade your operating system. There are probably other occasions too, but I'll leave those to the experts. This is just a helpful hint from your friendly editor.

Updating your panic disk certainly makes sense. It's the sort of thing that's perfectly obvious when you think about it. But who thinks about it? I didn't, that's for sure. (I can visualise Tom Coleman chuckling away as he reads this).

That's why I found out the hard way what happens when your panic disk is DOS version X and your computer's running DOS vX+2.

It's not a fatal mistake. It won't ruin your life. But it will ruin a good chunk of your day. It's not a difficult problem to repair, although I'm sure there are easier ways to solve the problem than the way I did it. I won't humiliate myself further by revealing how I solved the problem, but "when it doubt, reinstall" is my motto.

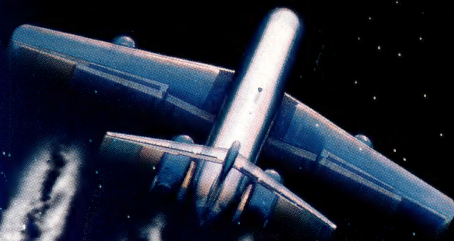
Of course you could be one of those people that leads a charmed life. You might never need a panic disk, (go ahead enjoy your fantasy world, I won't burst your bubble).

But if you're a normal mortal, take this friendly bit of free advice. Anytime you upgrade your operating system, do the same for your panic disk. □

### Forthcoming PC Update themes

Month	Theme
December	Christmas Special
January/ February	Entertainment/Infotainment (Multimedia, Games)
March	Communications (BBS, Internet, Intranet)
April	Education
May	Publishing (DTP, WWW, CD-ROM, WinHelp, Graphics)
June	Information Management (Database, PIMS, Spreadsheets)
July	SOHO
August	Operating Systems (Windows NT, 95, 3.x DOS, O/S2, UNIX)
September	PCs and the Professions (Accounting, Legal, Architecture, Medical, Market Research, Investment, Insurance, etc.)
October	Upgrading
November	Productivity (Utilities)
December	Christmas Special





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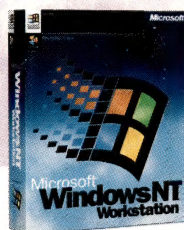
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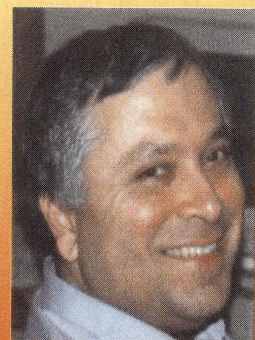
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# Windows NT 4.0 (beta 2) observed

FROM A WINDOWS 95 PERSPECTIVE

Ash Nallawalla



**W**indows NT 4.0 is likely to attract some Windows 95 users. It comes in Server and Workstation versions and the latter is easier to compare with Windows 95.

## Features

Microsoft makes the following claims for NT 4.0:

- Complete crash protection for 16- and 32-bit applications
- Built-in data protection
- Supports more than 15 networks and protocols including TCP/IP and Client Services for NetWare
- Remote Access Service
- Built-in support for applications designed for MS-DOS, Windows, Windows 95, and other operating systems

- Preemptive multitasking for all applications
- Virtually no memory constraints
- Will not crash during stress testing and debugging
- Sophisticated memory management
- OpenGL 3-D graphics
- Supports a wide range of systems and devices from PCMCIA cards for laptop computers to RISC and multiprocessor support for high-speed technical workstations.

## x86 or Pentium-based system requirements

- 12 MB RAM (16—32 MB recommended)
- i486 or higher processor (Pentium 90 or better preferred)
- 90 MB available hard-disk space
- VGA, Super VGA, or video graphics

adapter (compatible with Windows NT Workstation 3.51)

- One 3.5-inch high-density disk drive. Recommended: CD-ROM drive.

Microsoft Windows NT Workstation is supported on the following networks:

- Banyan VINES
- DEC PATHWORKS
- IBM LAN Server
- Microsoft LAN Manager
- Microsoft Windows NT Server
- Novell NetWare
- Internet

## Options

- Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device (mouse recommended)
- Network adapter card
- Audio board
- Hayes or compatible modem

## Who does not need NT 4.0?

Dos programs that write directly to the hardware will not run. NT has no support for power management or Plug and Play devices in this release. There are about 1000 fewer supported device drivers in NT. Laptop owners should stick to Windows 95 for now. Fax services and the Microsoft Network (MSN) support will follow shortly.

While most Windows 95 certified programs should work, they will need to be reinstalled. The CD-ROM comes with an impressive list of programs that have some level of incompatibility: they feature most major programs released in

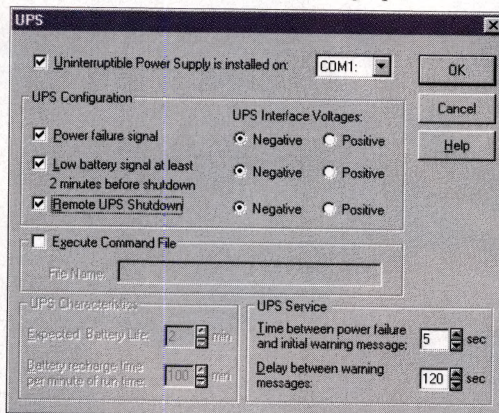
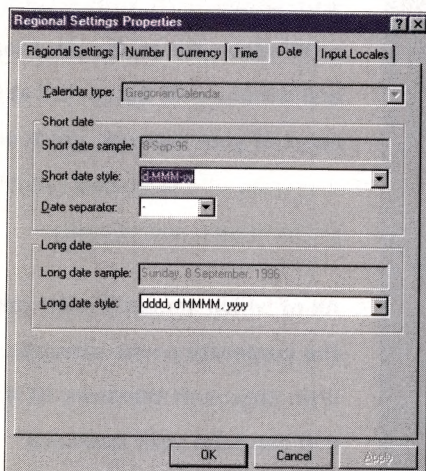


Figure 1 (left). Regional settings.  
Figure 2 (above). Settings for a UPS.



Figure 3. The Control Panel.

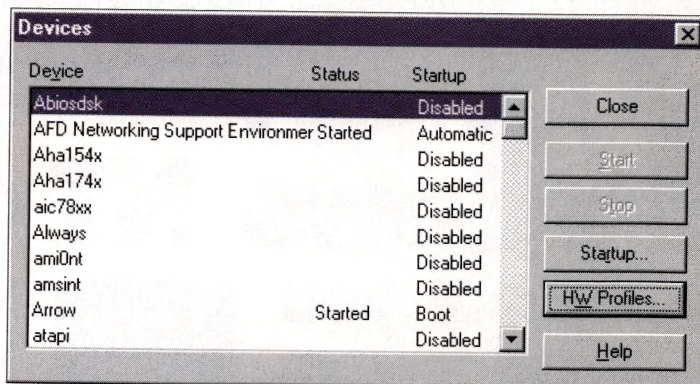


Figure 4. The Devices dialog box.



the past two years but the problems are mostly in the arena of disk access, long names, multiple user situations and so on. Older 16-bit Windows and some DOS programs should also run, but be prepared to phase out the DOS programs. If you have a large collection of 5.25-inch disks, give them away: NT does not recognise that form factor.

### Who will need NT?

My main interest lies in the NTFS file system, which is more efficient in disk usage than the ancient File Allocation Table (FAT) found in this day. While I don't need to create files larger than 4 GB, people who process large images will appreciate the upper limit of 64 GB. The minimum size of small files is also smaller under NTFS for a partition greater than 128 MB. The Server edition will appeal to those contemplating an Internet or Intranet service, for it comes with a web server and the ability to test web pages locally. Popular Windows databases such as Microsoft Access can be easily integrated with an NT-based web server, and this is of particular interest to our user group's online services. We are also contemplating a move to a BBS package that will support more lines, such as Wildcat 5.

### Installation trials

Microsoft's PR company kindly sent CD-ROMs of Windows NT 4.0 Server and Workstation Beta 2. Unfortunately, no reply was forthcoming to three follow-up enquiries about installation problems from this company or Microsoft. This is unlike Microsoft and we hope to bring you articles about the released version under real conditions in a later issue.

The test PC was completely empty other than DOS 6.00 and Win 3.1. Two Conner SCSI drives—540 MB and 1.0 GB. Adaptec 274x SCSI controller. Panasonic MKE IDE CD-ROM. Under its own steam the PC worked fine—it was the old production machine for PC Update: 486/66 with 16 MB RAM, no-name motherboard.

Setup failed after the point where the CD-ROM and SCSI controller were detected. The error message read:

"Setup is unable to locate the hard drive partition prepared by the MS-DOS portion of Setup.

When you run the MS-DOS Windows NT Setup program you must specify a temporary drive that is supported by Windows NT.

See your System Guide for more information.

Setup cannot continue.  
Press F3 to exit."

The Release Notes did not help (and I didn't have a System Guide). I also made an NTHQ diskette but the PC just wouldn't boot from it—it kept rebooting endlessly. My heart sank.

### Later

I installed Windows 95 on the test PC (although the docs suggested that installation from a DOS/Win 3.x situation is better owing to the different Registries). I inserted the NT \*Workstation\* Beta 2 disc. Autorun immediately launched and Setup proceeded to complete the MS-DOS portion of the setup. With a reboot, NT Workstation proceeded to install. The Phoenix VGA card was not recognised, leaving it in 16-colour mode. Apart from some missing images and minor components, the rest appeared to be all there and looked promising.

It would seem that Windows 95 made all the difference to the installation.

I wasn't given a chance to decide whether I wanted to keep Windows 95, but it was kept, and the dual-boot option appeared at boot-up. The alternative environment did not work, though, and asked for the location of COMMAND.COM.

I haven't yet attempted to see what the NT Server CD-ROM would have done from a Windows 95 starting point. This PC is not exactly an optimum platform and so these results should only serve as a reminder that hardware prerequisites need to be studied carefully.

### User interface

A Windows 95 user will have little trouble navigating through NT 4.0 because most of the icons and dialog boxes are similar or identical. When you examine in greater detail, you will find new tabs, such as those pertaining to user management and networking.

### Conclusion

Anyone contemplating an upgrade from Windows 95 to NT Workstation should read all available migration documentation from Microsoft and they should contact their application vendor for compatibility issues. Expect to encounter hardware incompatibilities if your hardware is old or not from a mainstream brand. Software incompatibilities should ease as existing products are upgraded to suit the new requirements. □

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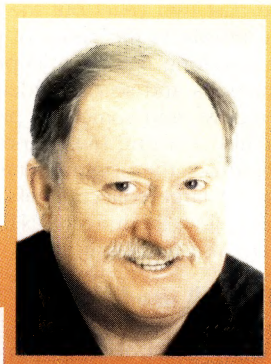
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8	Canon BJC600 - Black	BJI-201	6	\$35.00	\$5.85
9	H.P. Deskjet Tricolour	51625A	4 ea. Col	\$45.00	\$3.75
10	H.P. Paintjet Tricolour	51606C	4 ea. Col	\$45.00	\$3.75
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12	Canon BJ300 - Black	BJI-642	3	\$35.00	\$11.65
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16	Canon BJC4000 - Black	BCI-21BK	15	\$35.00	\$2.35
17	Canon BJC4000 - Tricolour	BCI-21C	10 ea. Col.	\$45.00	\$1.50
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24	H.P. 600 /660 - Tricolour	51649A	4 ea. Col	\$45.00	\$3.75
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## CLUB PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Charles Wright



**A**s I write this, your club has become the world's largest PC user group. The circumstances are both sad and salutary.

Boston Computer Society, for 20 years the leading club of this type, has folded. According to the official press release, "The society has succeeded in its original mission of helping thousands of early adopters and new users understand and use computers."

Then why not continue? It's absurd to suggest that an organisation which serves the interests of computer users has outlived its purpose. As more and more people find themselves entering the bewildering world of technology, there has never been a more pressing need.

There are other reasons for Boston's demise, and privately members of BCS admit them. According to the *Boston Globe*, last year the club recorded a loss of \$US125,000, and had a net balance of zero. The club was racked by disagreements among its volunteers, and membership had declined by thousands.

Says the president of another US user group close to the BCS: "They really haven't been able to set a clear and concise agenda so this isn't surprising. They wanted to close up shop with dignity rather than be chased by a lot of creditors."

Even closer to home, Brisbane's Brisbug PC User Group, which was one of the most successful user groups in the world with 4000 members, has now declined to only 1600. Others are experiencing serious problems.

The lessons are very clear for this group. We cannot take our leading position in the world of computer user groups for granted. Unless we're vigilant, we cannot even be confident of survival.

This club has always walked a very fine line between survival and collapse, and the next few months could well determine whether or not we have a future.

The most pressing problem, I believe, is sheer manpower. After years of diligent service, several long-standing members of the committee are reaching the end of the road. They will not be standing for election in December. That will be a shattering loss of continuity for this club. Although many would like to take credit for our success, or to belittle

it, most members are aware of the names of the small nucleus of people who conceived the vision, and adopted the strategies that brought us our success.

We desperately need people with professional or management experience—mature, positive, responsible people who have the ability to work as members of a team, and set and achieve goals, to stand for the committee. I should add that it would help immensely to have a great deal of self-esteem and imperviousness to insult and ingratitude.

We also desperately need more people who are prepared to volunteer some of their time to help with the hundreds of jobs that are required to keep an organisation like this functioning. Increasingly our volunteers are burning out.

If members want to continue to enjoy the benefits of this club, they can no longer enjoy the luxury of sitting on their hands, accepting the benefits, even in many cases constantly demanding more, and criticising and white-anting the committee.

Despite my warnings about this over the past year or so, we are now in the midst of another whispering campaign—this time over the resignations of some of the volunteers who've been involved in our BBS and, in recent months, the Internet service.

I'm not going to dignify that campaign by answering the continuing stream of misinformation, justifications and evasions about the management of those services, and I repeat that I will offer no comfort to the few misguided individuals who deliberately spread mischief.

On the matter of the performance of the Internet and the BBS, actions speak louder than words, and by the time you read this, you should have more than words to go on. The committee means to offer a high-quality service. We don't plan on letting anyone stand in the way of that.

I will say however that scenes and sudden disappearances have happened throughout the history of Melb PC. It's a part of the territory. Those of us who have to deal with these events try to take them in our stride, resist ultimatums and accusations, avoid public alarms and discursions, and get on with the job.

But that job is made immeasurably difficult when members have such little judgment as to take what they're told at face value, spread rumours, demand public explanations, and undermine morale. When these things happen, and they will continue to happen so long as we continue to function, it is the duty of members to offer help and support to the people who've been elected by the members. I'm not suggesting blind faith. It is a time perhaps to ask questions in private, to seek information and reassurance, to offer constructive advice, and to volunteer time and energy.

It is also the duty of each member to identify those who use the slightest sign of vulnerability to attack the club's officers. This is **your** club. Take personal responsibility for it. If you value this group, firmly discourage those who create dissent and destroy the club spirit.

It's never been easy to sustain growth, but it's very clear that it's going to be even harder in future.

For all that, we are a strong organisation with solid financial reserves. We have invested well, and carefully husbanded our resources. Unlike Boston, we have resisted the temptation to employ large numbers of paid and part-time staff, and we've tried to ensure that we get a return for every dollar spent.

This year will be a year of consolidation. The profits we made on the Internet last year are now being ploughed right back into the service, as we increase bandwidth, and improve the modem ratio, and web caching performance.

We've taken on professional help to improve the standard and consistency of service.

While we've managed to stem the losses from our magazine, we are going to have to work very hard indeed to generate additional finances from areas such as training.

This is a time to contribute your time, your expertise and your good will. It's time to stand up and be counted.

We are now the world's No 1 club. Let's learn what we can from our colleagues in Boston, grieve for them, and resolve to continue in the mission of helping thousands of early adopters and new users understand and use computers.





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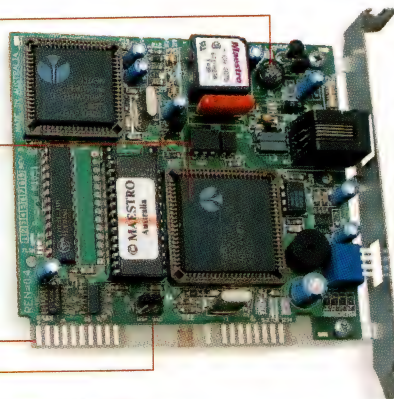
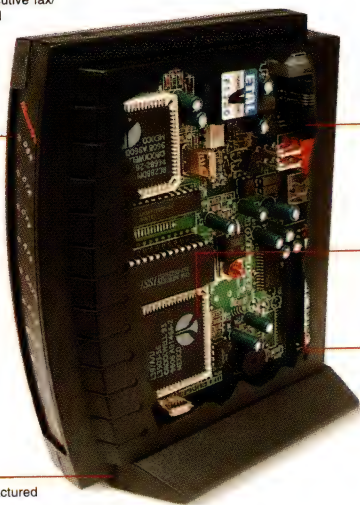
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# Supporting Windows 95

## OPERATING SYSTEMS

David Neiger



**W**in 95 has been described by its critics as being a lot like Sydney Harbour; pretty on top but deep and full of sharks underneath. This is because Win 95 has been mass marketed as an easy-to-use desktop operating system rather than the comprehensive and complex operating system which it really is. Not much information about the operating system architecture is provided in the online help or tutorials and obtaining detailed technical information is often very difficult. Not surprising since most people only want to use Win 95 to do their work.

### Novices + Win 95 = support calls

Despite what Microsoft says about Win 95, I have found that in many a new user's hands, Win 95 leads to an increase in support calls. I suspect that this is because Win 95 looks so friendly, the inexperienced users feel confident about using it and fiddles with the settings. Even the Microsoft tutorial *Windows 95 Starts Here* encourages novices users to experiment with the Control Panel and explore what some of the settings do. That is not a problem if users play with the display settings (to produce a really revolting desktop colour scheme) but can be a disaster if they play with device manager and remove the CD-ROM!

The concept of shortcuts and the desktop is also confusing for novice users. I have received many a support call where users thought they deleted Word simply because they removed the shortcut from the Desktop. In other cases, however they thought they removed what they thought was a shortcut but ended up deleting critical files or the application itself. I always insist that novice users purchase a copy of *Norton Utilities for Windows 95* and enable the SmartCan delete protection. It has saved many a user from having to reload software or retype documents. Norton Utilities is a must have on any new user's Win 95 system!

### What about tech support?

Technical support for Win 95 is patchy! Many support technicians (including some at Microsoft) lack a comprehensive

understanding of Win 95 and are only able to assist with installation and operational inquiries.

In many instances, support technicians are unable to provide solutions or even worse provide solutions which either do not work or are blatantly incorrect. Thankfully, the situation is gradually improving as vendors and technicians become more familiar with Win 95.

One of the most common "solutions" provided is that the problem is caused by a bug in another vendor's software. My experience has shown that this advice is often incorrect and accordingly it is essential that one checks with a support technician from the other vendor to verify firstly that a bug exists and secondly to determine if there is a workaround to the problem.

### How to maintain a Win 95 site

If you are responsible for maintaining a Win 95 site, a subscription to *Microsoft Technet* is essential. *Technet*, which is updated monthly, provides technical information and additional documentation on Microsoft products including reported bugs and workarounds, a description of error messages and their causes, online documentation and procedures for solving problems.

Unfortunately, *Technet* is still incomplete and fails to document every error message and full details of the system architecture and does not provide much assistance when the problem is caused by a non-Microsoft product (even if the problem directly affects Win 95).

As well as Technet, Microsoft provides telephone support and support via CompuServe and their dial up bulletin board on (02) 878 5200.

One of the best sources of information on Win 95 is the Internet, as it contains a wealth of sources of Win 95 information, including newsgroups, interactive "chat shows" and World Wide Web Pages. Whilst the Win 95 newsgroups (*comp.os.ms-windows.win95.\**) cover a wide range of topics, it is almost impossible to keep up to date with everything, particularly since a significant amount of the discussion is irrelevant and centres around "Why I hate Microsoft," "Why Win 95 sucks," and

**the first site is  
almost impossible,  
the next is easier,  
by the time you  
master it, the  
upgrade is about  
to be released!**

opinions as to why other operating systems are better.

One of the more useful World Wide Web sites is the "official" Microsoft site which contains product information, an online support database, software utilities, updated drivers for printers, video boards and multimedia hardware as well as software upgrades. The site can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com>.

Unofficial sites, which are maintained by independent companies and individuals contain additional resources and utilities for Win 95. One of the best sites is Dylan Greene's Windows 95 Starting Page (its Australian mirror is at <http://www.psy.uwa.edu.au/dylan/windows95.html>). This site contains a comprehensive index to other Win 95 resources on the Internet, software utilities, a collection of FAQs (frequently asked questions and their answers) and technical information.

The Windows 95 Annoyances site (<http://www.creativelement.com/win95ann>) contains one of the best collections of Win 95 technical documentation including details of bugs and how to work around them, how to solve common (and uncommon) problems, how to optimise Win 95 and how to use Win 95 more efficiently. This site claims to be updated regularly and also includes a search engine to locate topics of interest.

Be careful when using information from the Internet as some of the infor-



mation may be out of date (referring to pre-release versions of Win 95) or incorrect. In particular, be extremely careful when downloading software from an unknown site as the software may be buggy or contain viruses.

### Maintaining backups is critical

As with any computer software, is it important that you make regular backups especially before loading any new software or changing the configuration.

This is particularly important for Win 95 since it's easy for poorly written software and curious users to make Win 95 dysfunctional.

The system registry is one of the most critical parts of the Win 95 operating system since it is the database containing information about all 32-bit applications, the system configuration, drivers, networking and access rights. It is one of the most likely parts of the operating system to become corrupt and the most difficult thing to reconstruct if it becomes corrupted (mainly because details about the system registry are not available). For this reason, it is essential that the registry is backed up before any new application is loaded onto the computer.

Microsoft supply two utilities on the Win 95 CD-ROM that allow the system registry and other critical files to be backed up. CFBGBACK backs up and maintains up

to nine copies of the system registry on the hard disk and ERU makes copies of all system configuration files (including the registry) onto a floppy disk. As with most technical aspects of Win 95, there is little supplied documentation and no reference to these utilities in the Win 95 documentation or online help. If you only have the floppy disk or a preloaded version of Win 95 you can download these utilities from the Internet.

The Microsoft Backup software supplied with Win 95 is very limited as it only backs up to floppy disks, DOS devices (such as a file server, or removable hard disk), internal QIC-80 backup units or the HP Tracker tape backup unit. High capacity, high speed backup units such as SCSI tape drives, QIC 8020/QIC 8030, Travan or DAT drives are not supported.

For this reason it is worthwhile investing in proper Win 95 backup software such as *Arcserve for Windows 95* or *Novaback for Windows 95* (distributed by Alloy Computer Products). Both *Novaback* and *Arcserve* support a wide range of backup devices and provide full Win 95 backup capabilities including support for long file names and the system registry.

I personally use *Novaback for Windows 95* as it is very fast and easy to use, particularly when used with the Alloy TR3 parallel port Travan backup unit.

Whilst backups may be fast (I have achieved speeds of 12 MB per minute on a 486/66), restoring files is very slow as the Quick File Access module (which allows the software to instantly locate a file on the tape) was not included in the first release of *Novaback* for Win 95. However according to Alloy, Quick File Access should be available on the next interim release of *Novaback for Windows 95*.

If your backup unit is not supported by Win 95, it is still possible to use older backup software by using the LFNBK utility. LFNBK is used to save the long file name information in a separate file before the backup is commenced and then restore the long file name information again when required. It is clumsy but better than not backing up at all.

### Conclusion

In summary, supporting Win 95 is like supporting any new computer software; the first site is almost impossible, the next site is easier and by the time you have mastered the package, the upgrade is about to be released!

An electronic copy of this and other articles published by David Neiger can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://ocean.com.au/neiger>. He would like to acknowledge Ocean Services' assistance in providing this Internet site. □

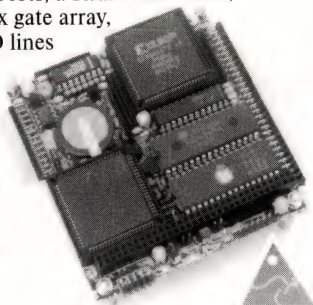
## Australian-made Embedded Computers: PC/104 or ISA bus

### PC540 80C188EB computer

This new computer uses the PC 104 bus, an international standard for embedded systems. The board provides an X86 instruction set, so familiar PC compilers, or Hi Tech's \$179 Pacific C can be used for program development.

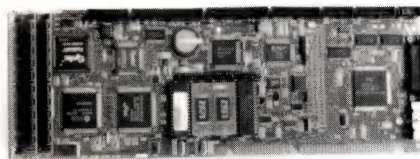
The board can run programs from PROM (512 kByte max), or a FLASH-PROM-based DOS can provide a familiar DOS environment from the PROM socket. Also, 128 or 512 kByte of battery-backed RAM can be installed.

Two serial ports, a Real-Time-Clock, and a Xilinx gate array, with 40 I/O lines make this board a compact, efficient embedded computer, costing only \$350.



### Embedded 386SX/486SLC

JED makes two computers on the ISA bus, the AT303 and the AT304.



These boards are 13.35" by 4.6" and need only 4 watts from a 5-volt power supply. They plug into a passive back-plane for support of standard AT-bus boards. This board supports 16 Mbyte of DRAM in two SIMMs, and has four 32-pin sockets where CMOS RAM, PROMs or the AT302, 2 Mbyte FLASH module can be installed. JED's JDOS supports solid-state disk-drives.

On-board are hard and floppy disk drive interfaces, printer, keyboard, mouse and three serial ports (one RS485). A Xilinx gate array provides 20 I/O lines to the JBUS system for analog/digital I/O.

From \$750 for a 1 Mbyte system.

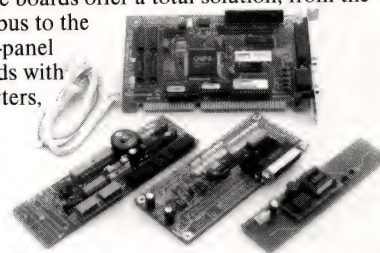
### \$300 PROM Programmer

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**P**romoted as "the performance companion of Windows 95", Agent 95 is designed to provide both tools and advice to enable you to operate your system in the best possible way.

### Installation

Agent 95 comes on one 3.5-inch disk and, in now standard Windows 95 fashion, its *Setup* program makes the installation task very simple. Its Wizard steers you through the process and finally prompts you to restart Windows 95 to make Agent 95 active.

### General description

Agent 95 is a utility program that , its resources and memory performance. It uses a colour change—its icon in the Taskbar changes from blue to yellow—to alert you if your system's operating resources become critically low.

If you open Agent 95 during such an alert you will be taken automatically to the agent that triggered the alert, so that you can investigate the cause quickly and make any changes that may be needed.

In this *Reduced* mode, Agent 95 works quietly in the background. But you can also run it in its *Full* mode, when the

amount of memory it uses rises from 180 KB to 600 KB. You only need to run Agent 95 in *Full* mode, when you are sorting out a bottleneck or other problem with memory or performance.

The main window is equipped with five tabs

- The System Info Agent
- The Memory Agent
- The Resource Agent
- The Performance Agent
- Agent 95 Settings

We can take a quick look at each of these.

### The System Info Agent

This agent displays information about your hardware and software, including the amount of RAM available to Windows 95. Don't be too surprised if you find this number is less than the total amount of memory installed in your computer. The probable cause is some small programs and devices loaded before Windows 95 actually starts.

The information in the System Info Agent is sometimes required for technical support, for example, to diagnose the cause of faults. So you can generate a report from this section, which you can print, save, mail etc, as required.

**continuously**

**monitors**

**your system**

### The Memory Agent

This agent shows the current level of memory being used by Windows 95 and other running applications. Both RAM and virtual memory use is shown for each running application, but you may have to scroll the centre window to display those further down the list.

You use the slider at the left of the dialog to reset the alert level. Although you should remember that the program automatically sets a default alert level, if you set the alert lower than the default, you may not be allowing for sufficient warning.

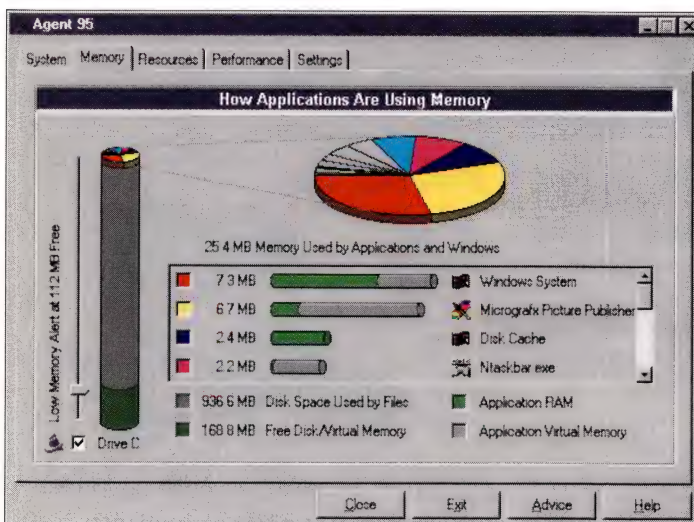


Figure 1. How applications are using memory.

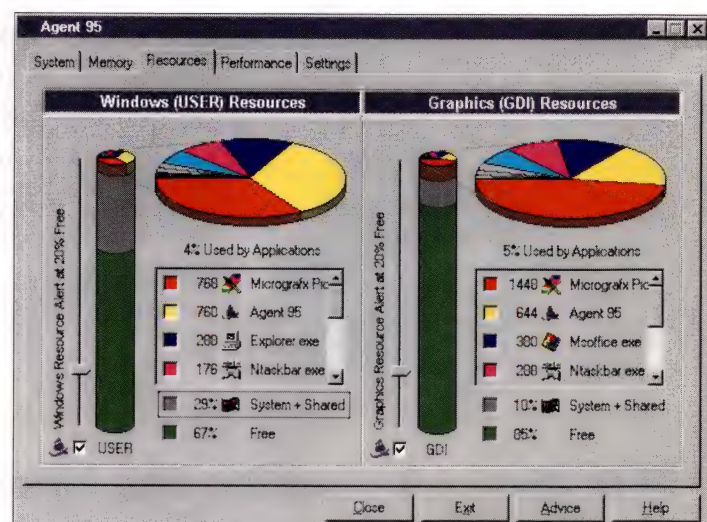


Figure 2. Windows USER and GDI resources.



You can close an application and free the memory it is using directly from the Memory Agent, by right-clicking on the application's name in the list or on its section in the pie chart. You are prompted to save information before closing, if this is necessary. The agent's display then readjusts to show the new memory distribution.

The five applications using the most memory are always displayed as coloured sections in the pie chart. If you are brought to this screen as a result of an alert condition, you can click on the *Advice* button to retrieve tips on how to remedy the problem.

## The Resource Agent

The two most important resources to be monitored under Windows 95 are the USER and GDI heaps\*, so these are given full prominence. With these detailed displays in full view, you are in the best position to decide how to free the most resources by closing the fewest applications, should the need arise.

Alert levels are set for each of these resources and an advice button is also available.

## The Performance Agent

This agent produces a fascinating chart. It shows you how much time has been spent swapping (using virtual memory) compared with the time spent working. Swap time is in blue and working time is in green

and, of course, the more green you see the better your system is performing.

If you have set the intervals at which Agent 95 monitors memory performance to 30 seconds (the default), the screen will display your system's performance history over the past 10 minutes. An interesting observation—recorded in the Agent 95 manual—is that you can achieve a better performance reading on a 486 with 32 MB of RAM than on a Pentium with 8 MB of RAM.

## Agent 95 Settings

You use this screen to determine whether Agent 95 shall be run automatically and whether to use *Dynamic RAM Compression*. The latter is worthy of further explanation.

A system with 8 to 16 MB RAM and running Windows 95 may use a large proportion of virtual memory to load just a few applications, which can cause the system to slow noticeably. *Dynamic RAM Compression* keeps a portion of virtual memory in a special area of RAM so that information can be retrieved much more swiftly than from the hard disk.

From within this agent you can also choose the refresh intervals for the Memory and Resource tabs, and reset any settings or alerts to their defaults.

## Conclusion

This is a very neat and effective utility that, under normal circumstances, will run quite unobtrusively, but which will alert you when you need its help to free memory and resources.

## Acknowledgment

The review copy was kindly provided by

Connectix Corporation  
2655 Campus Drive  
San Mateo  
California 94403  
USA

## \* heap

A portion of memory reserved for a program to use for the temporary storage of data structures whose existence or size cannot be determined until the program is running. The program can request free memory from the heap to hold such elements, use it as necessary, and later free the memory. Programming languages such as C and Pascal include functions and procedures for requesting and freeing memory from the heap.

From: Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (Second Edition), also reviewed in this issue.

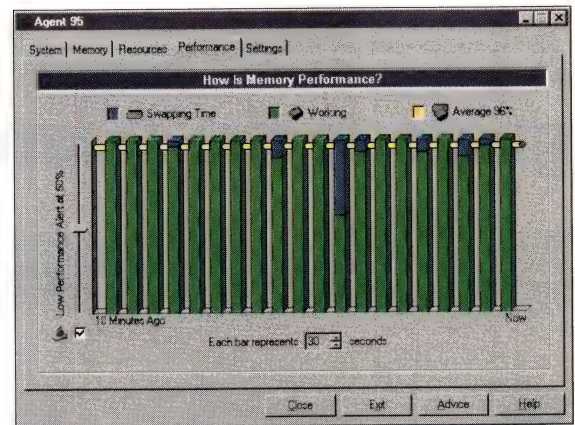


Figure 3. Memory performance over the past 10 mins.

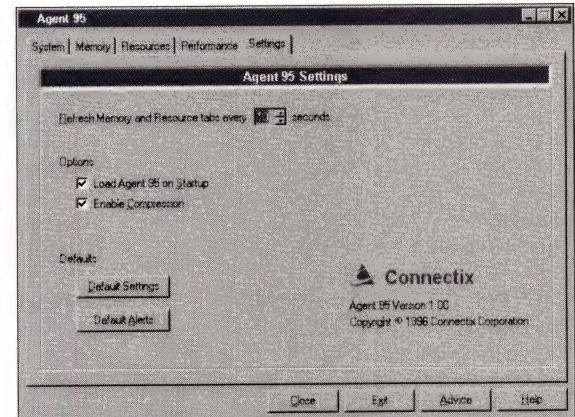


Figure 4. Agent 95 settings.

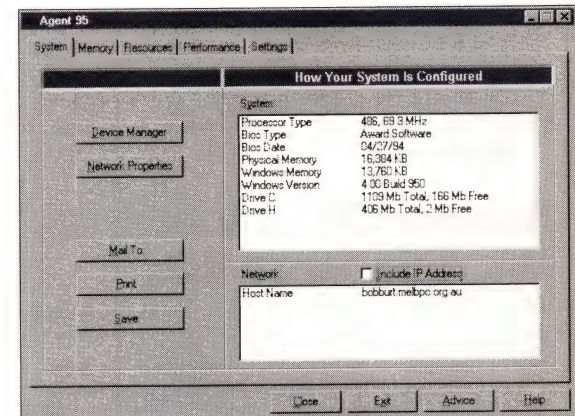


Figure 5. How the system is configured.

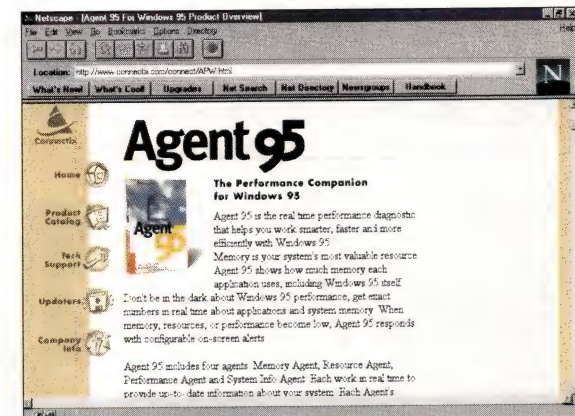


Figure 6. A time-out version of Agent 95 (available on the Internet).

## Info Box

### Agent 95

### Minimum system requirements

- 486
- Windows 95
- 8 MB RAM
- 1 MB free hard disk space
- 180 KB of RAM to be used for real-time monitoring
- Mouse or other pointing device, recommended

### Availability and cost

The Australian distributor is:  
Firmware Design  
28 Coombes Drive  
Penrith NSW 2750  
RRP not available at time of publication.  
US price US\$52.99  
Ph: (047) 21 7211  
Fax: (047) 21 7215  
e-mail: sales@firmware.com.au



# A jazz enthusiast's guide to the Internet

*it don't mean a thing if...*

Michael Palmer



**the universal  
appeal of jazz  
(the only original  
American art-form)**

**F**or lovers of jazz, of whatever description or style, the Internet is an excellent place to browse, read, listen, discuss or learn about jazz. However, the question that always comes up is, "Where do I start?"

A search engine—say Alta Vista, Yahoo or Excite—might seem the obvious answer. As good as these resources are—and I use one or more of them most days—if you search for the subject "jazz" you will get so many "hits" you are likely to be discouraged before you get started.

Instead, I suggest you start by subscribing to a newsgroup. For jazz lovers, I recommend *rec.music.bluenote*. You'll need to use your newsreader to

subscribe to the group. If you don't have a newsreader, download "Free Agent" from the BBS. It does most things you'll want a newsreader to do, and the price is right. It's free! Reading this newsgroup will introduce you to the world of online jazz aficionados. But first, a word of warning, many participants in this group believe jazz started with John Coltrane (although pre-60s jazz does have its devotees). I have been participating in this newsgroup for several years. I find it useful and friendly, very little flaming occurs, a pleasant change from some groups (which I will not name).

Once you've found your feet, you'll want to start exploring jazz sites on the www, and there are plenty of them. But, I hear you ask, "How do I find them?"

If you have an interest in a specific musician, this might be a good time to try one of the search engines mentioned above. If you're still in the general interest phase, you'll probably have more luck visiting a site that specialises in links to other pages of interest to the jazz lover.

For example you might want to visit Piotr Marek's *Jazz Links of the World*, at <http://www.pk.edu.pl/~pmj/jazzlinks/>. It's a comprehensive site and it's updated regularly. As you can see from the URL, *Jazz Links* is located on a server in Poland. That alone should give you an idea of the worldwide interest in this art form.

If you are interested in West Coast jazz, visit Jim Harrod's site, at <http://www.book.uci.edu/Jazz/JPRA11.html>. Jim provides an index of musicians, with links to recording information, JPG graphics and soundclips—so you can sample the featured musicians' work. Jim also runs a fascinating mailing list, which is subscribed to by musicians and

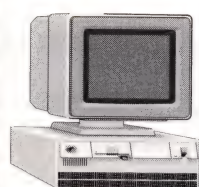
enthusiasts. You can find out about his mailing list when you visit his web pages.

Have I whetted your appetite? I hope so. But before you go off to visit one of these sites or explore on your own, let me tell you about one more spot. It's my own home page, which resides on a server in the USA. Visit my page, *A Tribute to Jack Teagarden*—one of my favourite musicians—at <http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/2508>.

I hope this little glimpse of jazz on the web gives you some idea of the universal appeal of jazz (the only original American art-form) and the usefulness of the Internet for pursuing your personal or professional interests.

Imagine, I create my page from my home, in Australia. I upload the information to a server somewhere in the USA. People from all over the world visit my page and send me e-mail about a subject in which we share an interest. Over the years I have made friends from around the world, swapped tapes and information and generally had a very good time, which is what it is all about, isn't it?

Good listening! □



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A photo montage of some of the artists featured on Jim Harrod's West Coast Jazz web site.



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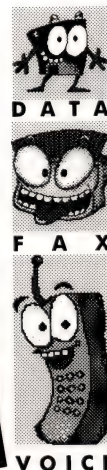
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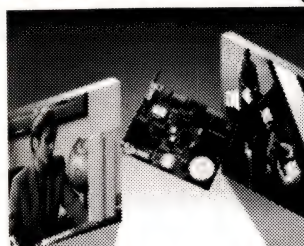
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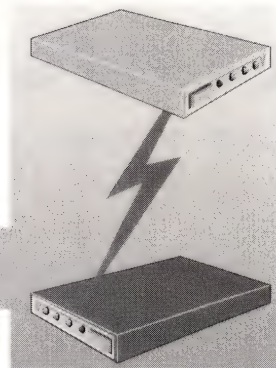




# How to get the highest speed possible out of your modem

## A HAYES WHITE PAPER

Andrew Phillips, Hayes Country Manager, Australia/New Zealand



**G**etting the highest possible speed out of your modem requires more than ensuring it's installed and configured correctly. If your new 28.8 modem isn't delivering the performance you paid for, it's likely that your PC is slowing down your modem.

Serial port technology supplied with the modern PC has not kept pace with advances in data communications technology. This technology mismatch is compounded by the more demanding operating environment faced by today's PC.

Consequently, many users are not getting the performance they paid for with their new high-speed modem.

Today's demanding PC user need not suffer poor communications performance due to problems posed by ordinary PC serial ports. To get the fastest, most reliable communications, users need an enhanced serial port. An enhanced serial replaces your PC's serial port, letting users gain full advantage of today's modem speeds.

The enhanced serial port is also capable of much higher transfer rates than most modems on the market today, allowing users to take full advantage of the higher speeds of ISDN and future technologies as they become available.

### Asynchronous serial ports— a brief history

The primary component in a PC's serial port is the UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter, pronounced "you-art"). The UART's primary purpose is to convert data from the parallel format of the PC bus (where data appears as groups of 8, 16, or 32 bits) to serial port format (where data appears as a stream of single bits).

To transmit data, the UART gets one byte (8 bits) of data from the PC bus, frames the byte with start and stop bits, and shifts the data out the serial port one bit at a time at a programmed rate. To receive data, the process is reversed. The UART samples each individual data bit received and when it detects a start bit in the data stream, it stores the next 8 bits. It then verifies the next bit as a stop and then makes the assembled

### The problems

Personal computers since the early 1980s have been designed with serial ports capable of accepting data at a maximum speed of 9600 bits per second (bit/s).

This was more than adequate for the early modems which only operated at around 300 bit/s. However, there have been some astounding advances in modem technology for PCs since the 1980s.

The standard modem in the 1990s operates at 28,800 bit/s, and some up to 230,000 bit/s and beyond, nearly 800 times the speed of the early modems. This progress will continue as technologies such as ISDN make their way to the average desktop.

The serial port in today's PC is not capable of efficiently processing the faster modem speeds. This problem has been compounded by the extra demands placed on today's PC. Multitasking systems such as Windows and OS/2, combined with LAN access and intensive background processing, create a very demanding environment for even the fastest PC. With so many tasks competing for your PC's resources it's virtually impossible for it to manage high-speed serial communications with maximum efficiency. The mismatch

byte available to the PC bus.

The earliest serial ports used a UART called the 8250. This has since been replaced by the 16450, which works identically but supports faster PC bus speeds. The 16450 remains in wide use today, for both built-on and add-on serial ports. A more recent development is the 16550A. The 16550A is commonly fitted to PCs advertised as having "high speed serial ports." Some serial devices, such as modems, are available as expansion cards that plug into the PC bus. These "internal" modems simply include the UART and the associated components on the modem card itself. The serial port components and the modem circuitry are connected directly on the card instead of through an external cable.

**communications**

**can be very**

**demanding**

**on the CPU**

between modem technology and the common PC serial port technology results in two distinct problems—reduced throughput performance and data loss.

### The throughput problem

The typical way that people use PCs requires the computer's microprocessor, or CPU, to routinely perform several different tasks at the one time. Your PC might be expected to concurrently compute a spreadsheet, display a cursor movement, and communicate over a modem or a network. An important job of the PC operating system is to manage the different tasks so that each one gets its fair share of the CPU's attention.

Different operating systems use different management strategies, but there is one common characteristic: the greater the number of tasks the greater the demand each task places on the CPU, the slower the overall performance of the PC.

Data communications, in particular, can be very demanding on the CPU. Most often, serial communication is "interrupt driven" because it requires real-time processing. When receiving a file via modem the data comes in from an external source, beyond the direct control of the CPU. The

Reduced output and data loss can become significant problems when running a 16450-based serial port at over 19,200 bit/s.

The problem is compounded when the CPU is operating in multitasking or networking environments.



CPU must be interrupted from whatever task it is doing at that particular moment to receive the incoming data.

As the data arrives, the CPU must retrieve it from the serial port and place it in the PC's memory. The designers of the PC thus provided a way for the serial port to "interrupt" the CPU to say, "Stop what you're doing and come and get this data I've just received."

In responding to the interrupt, the CPU saves status information about what it's currently doing and gathers other information to determine what caused the interrupt. This preparation is called a "context switch," and takes valuable CPU time to accomplish. The CPU then services the interrupt as required (e.g. by retrieving the data from the serial port).

After servicing the interrupt, the CPU does another context switch to go back to what it was doing before.

In most PCs, there are several devices that may use interrupts, including the serial port, the network adapter or the mouse. Consider a Windows environment, where you might be running a spreadsheet in the foreground, opening a data file over the network, downloading some other information via modem in the background and moving the mouse, all at once even a "fast" CPU can get quite busy.

A key to good performance, then, is to have every device operate as efficiently as possible. Ordinary serial ports based on the 16450 UART generate an interrupt for every individual character received. With a modern V.34 modem using compression to achieve a data rate of 230,400 bit/s, that means over 23,000 interrupts and 46,000 context switches every second! Or, every 43 microseconds (a microsecond is one-millionth of a second) the serial port tells the CPU to stop what it's doing and retrieve one byte of data. The serial port demands a significant portion of the CPU's attention, and everything begins to slow down.

**The data loss problem**

The data loss problem occurs when several 'critical' applications are demanding the CPU's attention at the same time. In a Windows or OS/2 environment, the serial port may receive a relatively low interrupt priority. In other cases, a software program may purposely disable interrupts altogether for some period of time.

The result: a delay between the time the serial port signals an interrupt and the time the CPU responds to the interrupt. The technical term for this delay is "interrupt latency." As the CPU becomes busier with critical or high-priority tasks, the severity of the interrupt latency increases.

Interrupt latency can cause havoc on an ordinary, 16450-based serial port. The 16450 provides storage, or buffering, for

exactly one byte of data. Because the CPU cannot clear the incoming data from the serial port's buffer, that one byte of data is overwritten and lost forever by the next incoming byte of data. This is the "receiver overrun" error.

As a general rule of thumb, reduced throughput and data loss can become significant problems when running a 16450-based serial port at over 19,200 bit/s, especially in multitasking environments such as Windows. Networked or heavily-loaded environments may present difficulties at even lower speeds.

**Partial solutions**

**Improving flow control**

Most modern error-correcting modems and communications software have some form of "flow control" to manage data flow and prevent overrun. Basically, flow control allows a receiving device to signal a sending device to stop (and subsequently resume) flow of data. But in practice, a 16450 UART serial port cannot perform flow control on its own. It can only signal the need for flow control to the CPU by generating an interrupt, ("My Receiving Register is full...please do something!")

However, in a demanding PC operating environment, if the CPU is too busy to read data from the serial port, it will often be too busy to respond to the need for flow control. Flow control is thus ineffectual.

**The high-speed serial port**

The receiver overrun error the data loss problem is partially solved by some "high-speed serial ports" which can hold up to 16 bytes in the buffer, instead of just one byte. The 16550A UART can carry up to 16 bytes in the buffer and is used in many products advertised as having

"high-speed serial ports".

However, even a 16 byte buffer is insufficient for most PC operating environments, and will certainly not cope as modem speeds increase up to 64,000 bit/s and beyond.

The complete solution—an enhanced serial port. An enhanced serial port offers the complete solution to lack of throughput and data loss for high speed communications. There are two main differences between an enhanced serial port and a 16450 or 16550A UART serial port: on-board flow control and the size of the input/output buffer.

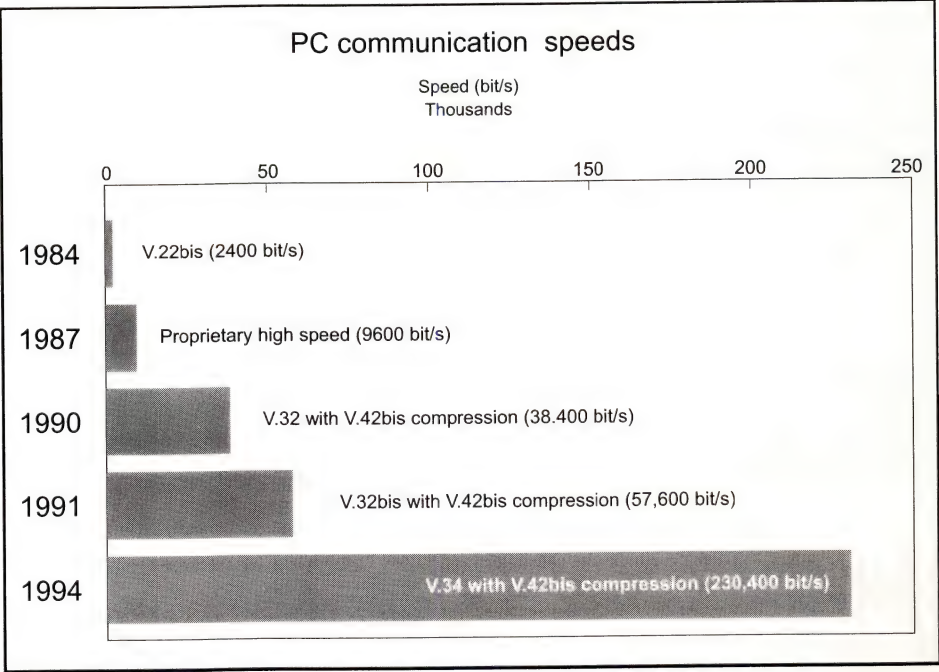
**On-board flow control**

An enhanced serial port has its own CPU to provide flow control independent of the host computer's CPU. When serial port interrupts to the CPU are missed or "delayed" because the host PC is attending to a higher priority task, the enhanced serial port invokes flow control signals to the modem to ensure that a receiver overrun error will not occur, and data will not be lost. As the receiver buffer becomes nearly full, the enhanced serial port's CPU sends the appropriate "flow off" signal to the modem.

Therefore, no matter how "busy" the PC is, the enhanced serial port handles the flow control automatically. The received data remains buffered until the CPU is ready to read it.

**Larger buffer**

Data throughput is dramatically improved by increasing the size of the serial port buffer for receiving (and transmitting) data. The enhanced serial port typically has a buffer of 1000 bytes or more. A 1000-byte buffer will reduce serial port interrupts by a factor of 1000 to 1 compared to a 16450-based serial port with only one-byte buffer. Less serial





port interrupts means the computer's CPU is able to process other tasks more efficiently.

A 1000-byte buffer is more than ample to deal with 28,800 bit/s, and provides sufficient capacity for the much higher data transfer speeds available in ISDN and other technologies.

Throughput is also improved by increasing the rate at which the data transfers from the serial port buffer into the CPU. If the host PC uses an 8-bit bus interface (which determines the rate at which the data is transferred from the serial port buffer to the CPU), an enhanced serial port will at least double the transfer rate with a 16-bit bus interface.

The table below contrasts the partial solution to lack of throughput and data loss provided by a high-speed serial port, such as the 16550A, and the solution provided by the enhanced serial port.

### ISDN and future technologies

The enhanced serial port, with on-board flow control and 1000-byte buffer, provides the complete solution to the technological mismatch between the standard UART serial port and the modern high-speed modem. The enhanced serial port enables PC users to take advantage of the latest communications technology, and have sufficient capacity to handle the higher speeds that will be available with ISDN and future technologies.

### Background

Best known as the inventor of the PC modem, Hayes is recognised around the globe as a leader in technical innovations, computer communications standards, functional and feature-rich products, and superior support and service.

Founded in 1977, Hayes develops, manufactures, and markets value-based computer communications solutions for software, business, network, and consumer market segments. □

### The enhanced serial port solution summary

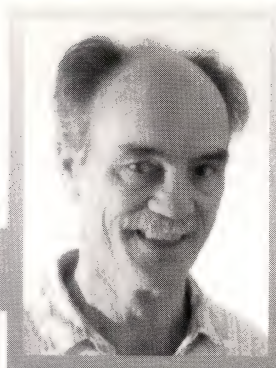
(compared to the standard 16450 serial port found in most PCs)

	High-speed serial port (16550A)	Enhanced serial port
The throughput problem		
Buffer to reduce serial port interrupts	Yes (16 bytes)	Yes (1000+ bytes)
Independent flow control to improve data transfer efficiency	No	Yes
The data loss problem		
Increases serial port buffer size to prevent receiver overrun errors	16:1	1000:1
Flow control independent of CPU	No	Yes

# Annual Seamist weekend

## TRAINING UPDATE

Tom Coleman



It is about time to start planning for our annual computing smorgasbord at Seamist. This year it is the weekend of 16, 17 November. This is our annual live-in weekend.

We have been doing this for a few years now and it gets better each year. The word must be getting out about it. For those not familiar with Seamist here is a brief guide.

Seamist is a horse trail-riding establishment located about half an hour or so beyond Geelong, not far from Anglesea. The facilities are excellent, the food magnificent.

### The computing weekend

You bring your own computer, we do not provide any. We provide the experts, a half a dozen or so—the sort of experts that can help you sort out any problems you are having, even suggest other, better ways to use your computer.

More than this, you are immersed in a group of enthusiasts. There are just so many ideas and so much energy buzzing around. You can see how other people use their computer, you can pick everyone's brains.

### Is it for you

It makes no difference if you have only just bought your first computer or if you are one of the anointed, voodoo high priests of computing. Everyone who attends always picks up tonnes of information.

- If you are having problems organising your CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT to make the most of your memory
  - If you are troubled by the occasional strange error messages
  - If you've been itching to fit a new hard drive or a CD-ROM, but want a bit of support when you do it
  - If you want to untangle the mysteries of modems (there will be a telephone line and modem gurus)
- the Seamist weekend is for you.

### Early birds

The last couple of years most people have turned up on Friday evening and we have been getting an early, informal start that night.

### Bush, kangaroos, lots of birds...

Seamist is a lovely place on the edge of the state forest. Bring your family. It is a great weekend getaway for the whole family. There is more than enough for everyone to see and do, even people that do not indulge in computing.

Some of you might like to go for a trail ride. For the experienced riders there is a choice of experienced horses and for those who never ridden before there are horses that have never been ridden before.

It really is a great experience. You should be there.

### Costs

The training cost for weekend is \$120 for the conference and facilities (does not include meals or accommodation).

### Accommodation

- Accommodation is \$170 if you arrive on Friday evening. This includes Friday and Saturday night's stay and all meals, morning and afternoon teas from Saturday breakfast to 4.00 pm Sunday, no meals on Friday.
- Accommodation cost is \$135 if you arrive Saturday morning. This covers Saturday night's stay and all meals, morning and afternoon teas from Saturday afternoon up to 4.00 pm Sunday.
- For those locals who do not need accommodation at Seamist, the cost is \$45.00 per day (for lunch, and morning and afternoon teas).

### Bookings

- Book accommodation/meals directly with Seamist on (052) 88 7255.
- Melb PC does not handle the bookings for accommodation.
- Register for the weekend through the Melb PC office on (03) 9699 6222. (Remember, you must make your own booking for meals and accommodation directly with Seamist on (052) 88 7255.)
- You will receive detailed information about Seamist and exact instructions on how to get there when you make your booking for the weekend with the Melb PC office. □



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\*Pentium Pro's come with 32Mb of RAM
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- ★ Magnetic Shielded Speakers
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★ BONUS 7 FREE CD SOFTWARE TITLES: For Windows 95: Microsoft- Works/Money/Encarta 96/Golf & CD Sampler. For DOS/Windows 3.11: Dangerous Creatures and Yellow & White Pages Phone Disc.

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CPU CHOICES	TAX EX	TAX INC
5x86-100	\$1520	\$1720
6x86-100/120P	\$1750	\$1995
6x86-120/150P	\$1850	\$2070
Pentium™ 100	\$1750	\$1995
Pentium™ 120	\$1800	\$2050
Pentium™ 133	\$1975	\$2250
Pentium™ 150	\$2020	\$2300
Pentium™ 166	\$2290	\$2595
Pentium™ Pro 150	\$2495	\$2895
Pentium™ Pro 180	\$3050	\$3530
Pentium™ Pro 200	\$3150	\$3650

Pentium Pro's come with 32Meg of Ram as standard with ATX style case and power supply. With 12x SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE. \$200 extra All Pentium™ Motherboards come fitted with 256K Pipeline Cache.

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**SPECIAL OFFER- 33.6K internal modem for only \$199 if bought with these systems. Hot item! X18598**

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  - 33.6K bps Internal ..... \$199
  - PCMCIA Modem for NoteBook .. \$459

### 3200 dpi Scanmate Colour

Economical 3200 dpi colour handheld scanner. Incl. interface card • User's manual • Photo Finish 3.0 • SmartPage OCR  
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Economical 800 dpi colour handheld scanner. Incl. software same as 3200 dpi handheld scanner  
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|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
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| 1M x 9-70 With Parity                   | \$19  | \$18  | \$16  |
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| 72 PIN SIMM FOR PENTIUM™ Processor M.B. |       |       |       |
| 4M x 8-70 No Parity                     | \$45  | \$43  | \$39  |
| 8M x 8-70 No Parity                     | \$69  | \$67  | \$65  |
| 16M x 8-70 No Parity                    | \$145 | \$143 | \$141 |
| 32M x 8-70 No Parity                    | \$319 | \$309 | \$299 |

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|-----|-------|-------|
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- RUN SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS 20% FASTER. SUIT ONLY MOTHERBOARDS WITH TRITON CHIPSETS.

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MODEL	Before Cash Back	After Cash Back
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100MB ZIP DISK 1+ \$27 10+ \$25

### HARD DRIVES Voice Coil IDE HD

Capacity	Av. Access	Tax Ex.	Tax Inc.
540M	12ms	\$199	\$245
700M	12ms	\$205	\$249
850M	11ms	\$215	\$262
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1.27GB	10ms	\$240	\$293
1.6GB	10ms	\$269	\$328
2.1GB IDE HD	10ms	\$340	\$415
2.5GB IDE HD	10ms	\$470	\$575
3.2GB IDE HD	10ms	\$489	\$589
1GB SCSI HD	10ms	\$470	\$575

### FAST SCSI 3.5" HARD DISK DRIVES SPECIALS

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### VERBATIM DISKS

DESC.	1-9	10+
-------	-----	-----

3 1/2" DS/DD \$17.95 \$16.95

3 1/2" DS/DD \$17.95 \$16.95

5 1/4" DS/DD \$11.95 \$10.95

5 1/4" DS/DD \$14.95 \$13.95

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# What does membership of Melb PC offer you?

## BENEFITS OF BELONGING



### Strength

Melbourne PC User Group Inc. is the biggest computer club in the Southern Hemisphere, and—with over 11,500 members—the second largest in the world. It was founded in 1983, and is still run for its members, people like **you**.

The Group employs a Chief Executive Officer, two full-time office staff and some part-time help. Magazine production and training are also contracted out, but most other functions of the club—magazine writing and editing, BBS and Internet maintenance; collection and distribution of shareware; organisation of SIG and monthly meetings and much more, is performed by volunteers.

The Group today proudly has a membership of people from all walks of life and with a broad range of computer skills. With this vast store of knowledge, members have access to information and help in numerous fields—programming, software solutions, communications, DOS and Windows, to name just a few.

### Training

One of the Group's most important and popular services is the provision of training in a diverse range of computer skills, from starting with computers to advanced programming.

Melb PC has its own fully-equipped training centre, using networked Pentium systems. Courses are run as a service to members and thus are budgeted on a break-even basis, making them very cost-competitive when compared to similar courses elsewhere.

Students are taught in a classroom environment with an instructor and one computer per student. Courses include applications (such as Quicken, Excel and Word), BBS and Internet usage, and operating systems such as DOS and Windows.

Most classes are run in the evenings or at weekends, when parking is readily available. The Club's rooms are also easily accessible by public transport.

All courses provide suitable training material and support.

A list of courses on offer to members appears in each issue of *PC Update*.

### Magazine

*PC Update*, the magazine of the Melbourne PC User Group, is sent to you 11 times a year as part of your membership privileges. *PC Update* publishes articles written by members and all members are welcome, indeed encouraged, to write articles on a subject they know about, to share with others. *PC Update* reprints occasional articles from overseas user groups, to keep Melb PC members as up-to-date as possible.

*PC Update* has won awards in each of the last five years in the International User Groups' Newsletter Contest. Some of the ten awards it has won are "Best Feature Articles," "Best Publication," "Best Features and Reviews," and "Best Columnist." It has also been runner-up in "Best Publication" and "Best Layout and Design." Many people join the Group just for the value *PC Update* provides, well worth the annual membership fee on its own, and then discover all the other benefits of membership.

It costs about the same to join Melb PC and have *PC Update* mailed to you, as it does to buy a year's issues over the counter.

### Monthly Meeting

Each month, except January, Melb PC holds a meeting, open to members and visitors. The meeting is usually addressed by two representatives from the computer industry on topics of general interest. They frequently give away samples of software and other products. These speakers include many from Australian vendors and distributors—we have also been privileged to be addressed by CEOs such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn, Gordon Eubanks and others who made special visits to address our members.

There is also the ability to address questions to the membership at large, seeking advice or problem-solving. Shareware and diskettes are for sale and members take the opportunity to socialise and discuss anything that takes their fancy—even computers!

Following the meeting many members gather for further discourse over a meal, arranged at a convenient restaurant, at "user-friendly" prices.

### Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Group has a number of SIGs covering many aspects of computer use. A SIG can deal with any topic relating to personal computing, ranging from particular applications to hardware and programming, or how to get the best from your equipment.

There are also regional SIGs, for members in outlying geographical areas.

A list of meeting dates, places and contacts for SIGs is published each month in this magazine, together with reports of previous and forthcoming activities. Attendance at any or all SIG meetings is available to any member.

### Bulletin Board

Melb PC operates a 23-hours-a-day bulletin board system (BBS) as another member service. The BBS, running on 34 lines, is the biggest OS/2-based BBS in the world.

The BBS has two main functions—electronic mail and message exchange, and file transfer facilities. The mail and messaging facilities enable members to exchange messages with each other and to seek help on a wide range of topics, not only from other members but also from the world-wide PC community. This service gives BBS users access to an enormous pool of experience and talent on a vast array of subjects. If you have a problem, put a message on the BBS and, more often than not, it's answered in a day or so!

The BBS carries many files on a range of topics. These have been uploaded by members who found them useful and can be downloaded by other members. They include many useful utilities and the latest versions of shareware software, often obtained from overseas BBSs before appearing in other Australian outlets.

### Internet Service

The club provides access to a 96-line full-featured Internet service, providing access to Usenet, ftp, irc, www, gopher and telnet.

SLIP/PPP accounts are provided. This service is very popular and is being expanded and enhanced to serve a larger number of members.



### Software Library

Melb PC maintains an extensive and up-to-date software library of programs (over 1300 disks, with about 50 new disks added each month) for IBM-type personal computers, obtained from around the world. This library of shareware software is available only to Melb PC members and is supplied on new disks at very low prices.

An order form for this software is in every issue of *PC Update*.

### Shareware Registration

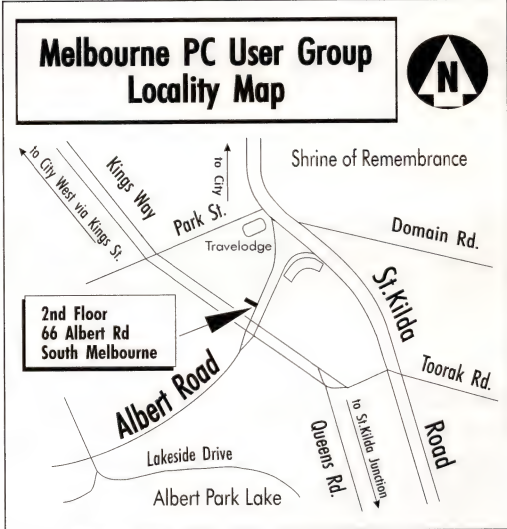
Much of the most popular software on Melb PC's Bulletin Board and in its software library is shareware, i.e. try free and pay only if you like and use it.

The club organises bulk shareware registrations, usually at a substantial discount.

Club-organised registrations also save members the costs of US-dollar bank drafts and overseas postage.

### Computer First-Aid and Dial Help

This unique service is made available free to members simply because volunteers within the Group give their time and knowledge to assist you with any computing problems you may have. About 300 telephone numbers of unpaid volunteers, with day-and night-time contacts, are mailed to members with their *PC Update*. The service covers over 120 separate topics. □



Melbourne PC User Group Inc  
2nd Floor  
66 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Phone: (03) 9699 6222  
(10 am – 3.30 pm)  
Fax: (03) 9699 6499

# You owe it to yourself . . . Join or renew now !

## MELB PC Membership Application

Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

Name * Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Other .....		Ref: 1096															
Home Postal Address		Member Number (if renewing)															
Postcode		Country															
Telephone Numbers BH: ( )		AH: ( )															
Job Title																	
Employer/Company Name *																	
<p>* Attach list if more than one corporate representative, or more than one family member is being nominated with this application. Corporate members may change their representative(s) by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.</p>																	
<b>Type of Membership:</b>		\$															
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 30%;"><b>New Member</b></td><td style="width: 30%;"><b>Renewal</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (extra family members—\$10 each)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Corporate (2 representatives) <input type="checkbox"/> \$130</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$120 (extra representatives—\$60 each)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Full-time Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Students must attach photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming <i>full-time</i> student status)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pensioner <input type="checkbox"/> \$50</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pensioner Concession Card.)</td><td></td></tr></table>			<b>New Member</b>	<b>Renewal</b>		Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (extra family members—\$10 each)		Corporate (2 representatives) <input type="checkbox"/> \$130	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120 (extra representatives—\$60 each)		Full-time Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Students must attach photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming <i>full-time</i> student status)		Pensioner <input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pensioner Concession Card.)	
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I want <input type="checkbox"/> / do not want <input type="checkbox"/> to receive occasional promotional mail from commercial organisations.																	
I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc and agree to abide by its rules while I remain a member.		Date    /    /															
Signature																	
Cheque (payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc.) enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> or Debit my credit card (Bankcard <input type="checkbox"/> / Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> / Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Expiry Date ____/____ with		\$															
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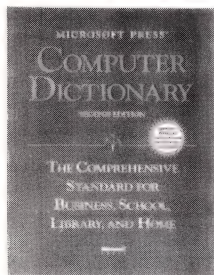
# For the bookshelf

## BOOK REVIEWS



Bob Burt

### Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (Second Edition)



This comprehensive dictionary of computer terms was first issued in 1994. The second edition has been completely revised and updated, with new definitions, illustrations and photographs.

The dictionary is written by a group of experts drawn from the computer industry, the business community and academic institutions. Some 22 contributors and reviewers are acknowledged in the book, yet there is no apparent mixture of styles, although there are some occasional lengthy sentences. However, with over 5000 entries, a small lapse here and there is easily forgiven. The information in each entry is always consistently presented.

Gathered in one volume are topics on memory management, desktop publishing, data storage, programming, hardware, printing, electronics, communications and even computer-industry jargon. Acronyms, with which the computer industry abounds, are given the full treatment. Some entries are, of course, quite basic, such as *boot* and *system*, yet more advanced topics like *object-oriented programming* and *VL-bus* are covered in considerable detail. Even the experienced computer user is likely to come across many new terms. Did you know that *fs* is an abbreviation for *femtosecond*, or one quadrillionth of a second? I would never have guessed.

The compilers have wisely refrained from including direct entries for specific companies, for *most* makes of computer or for *most* application software. Naturally, you can still look up *Z80* and find Zilog mentioned, or go to *80386DX* and find Intel credited with its introduction.

Important and technically complex entries are well supported with either diagrams or photographs and many are cross-referenced to give additional information. Where appropriate, definitions are extended to include phonetic pronunciations commonly used in the industry (e.g. ASCII, pronounced "askee").

The dictionary is promoted as the "comprehensive standard for business, school, library and home" and I believe this is a justifiable claim.

*Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary*

ISBN 1 55615 597 2

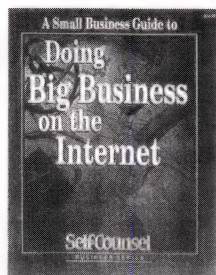
442 pages

Published by Microsoft Press

RRP not available at time of publication.

US price US\$19.95

### A Small Business Guide to Doing Big Business on the Internet



This lengthy title provides a clear picture of the authors' intentions. If you buy this book expecting an introduction to the Internet and how to use it to either enhance an existing business or identify

new business opportunities, you will be pleased with your purchase.

This very satisfactory book is written, to alert business people to the benefits and perils of the Internet and the practical steps they should be taking to make use of this unique environment.

It has 10 chapters, the first four contain basic information on the Internet—which would be helpful to anyone accessing it for any purpose—while the remaining six are the business guide.

The basic information is very well handled. Chapter 1 describes the Internet, online services and who uses them. Chapter 2 deals with what it means to have access to the Internet and the basic options available. Chapter 3 moves on to what you can do once you are connected, including all the popular tools and their functions, and Chapter 4 explores how to find things on the Internet.

In Chapter 5, the steps to develop a customised Internet business plan are covered. A seven-step business analysis program is introduced, starting with analysing your product or service and closing with the creation of a business model and strategy.

Methods of enhancing your existing business are detailed in Chapter 6. These comprise no less than 15 major

suggestions, ranging from catalogue-based selling through distributorships to business communication. Chapter 7 moves on to discuss nontraditional business opportunities—openings made available because of the existence of the Internet itself. This is a relatively large and very detailed chapter, covering e-mail, information services, entertainment, interactive services, technical support and consulting. Each topic is given more than cursory treatment; the e-mail services section, for example, identifies no less than 12 different areas that can be developed, ranging from the standard electronic mailbox to a voice-mail-to-e-mail conversion service.

Chapter 8 outlines six steps to operate your business on the net, including electronic prospecting, creating a winning www site, closing and processing a sale and handling after-sales service. Chapter 9 moves on to methods of selecting and building your Internet platform, discussing whether to work with a consultant or not, whether to lease or own your Internet platform, how to select an Internet service provider and finally, ongoing maintenance costs.

The final chapter outlines future prospects for the Internet, discussing market forces that are working to support a more sophisticated system.

The text is clearly written and professionally presented. Each chapter has special information boxes, *Key to success*, to stress aspects of a current topic. Other boxes are scattered through the book, highlighting business tips or providing statistics relevant to the chapter. An appendix gives a short list of recommended reading material. There is also a glossary of Internet terms, not extensive, but adequate to cover the topics raised in the book. This book is a sound choice for the entrepreneur who wishes to research the Internet and the potential business opportunities it offers.

Brian Hurley and Peter Birkwood:  
*A Small Business Guide to Big Business on the Internet*

ISBN 1 55180 029 2

174 pages

Published by Self-Counsel Press

RRP not available at time of publication,

US price US\$14.95



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**The hidden power of V-Buster will now rebuild files infected by the  
Prank Macro and Nuclear viruses**

Detects 8243 viruses and rebuilds boot sectors, partition tables and files. Able to rebuild files infected by mutating viruses like the Diehard-2, 1403, Loren-B, Natas, T4, Mutagen, Tequila, Junkie, etc. Also effective against all internet viruses. Written in low level 8088 instruction set and will therefore run in any computer under any DOS-based operating system including Windows NT and Windows 95.

Do you know that V-BUSTER is used by thousands of highly successful organisations like Intel Technology, National Semiconductor, Motorola, Komag USA, Siemens, Fujitsu, Perodua, Kontena Nasional, Credit Suisse, Frank Small, Ansell, Dataprep, Sapura, FMS Audio, Royal Selangor International, Mutiara Telekom, Alcatel, Malaysian Airports, Pengurusan Lebuhraya, Central Information Collection Unit, University Utara, Perwira Affin Bank, Credit Corporation, Tenaga Nasional, MIGHT, Ministry of Health, Integrated Air Defence System, Australian High Commission, etc?

Dr. Looi in Penang truly has a much better program than all the ones currently commercially offered in Australia. I know. I have tested them all.

\*\*\*\* Gareth Powell, *Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney* \*\*\*\*

I have tested and evaluated a number of other antivirus packages and have been pleased to say that V-Buster comes out tops.

\*\*\*\* Harun Abdul Wahab, *Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia* \*\*\*\*

I found the package to be very effective. Its effectiveness against many of the known viruses, its simplicity in removing viruses after detection and its ease of installation and use has made it the best antivirus program on the market.

\*\*\*\* A. Dumcius, *Barker College of Tafe, South Australia* \*\*\*\*

V-Buster detected the 60 Boots virus as an unknown virus and able to remove it by rebuilding the boot sector. What a great software.

\*\*\*\* P.C. Sim, *Intel Corporation, Malaysia* \*\*\*\*

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Special price for a limited period of RM80.00 per copy plus RM20.00 for airmail postage for members of Melbourne PC User Group.

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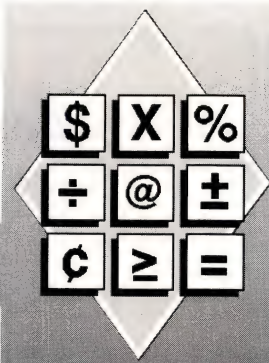
Fax: 0011 60 4 226 0946, 0011 604 226 0948

Email: [looiht@pc.jaring.my](mailto:looiht@pc.jaring.my)

Homepage: <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/7492>



# Treasurer's Annual Report



## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Bruce Elliott

I am pleased to submit the financial statements of the Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated (the Group) for the year ended 30 June 1996.

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with:

- Statements of Accounting Concepts and
- Australian Accounting Standards

and accurately reflect the financial results of the Group's activities.

### Achievements

- The Group recorded a surplus of \$270,233 a significant increase over last year's result of \$130,502.
- The excess of Current Assets over Current Liabilities has improved from \$127,142 last year to \$299,657 this year.
- The Group has made a substantial investment in new equipment during the year of \$207,562.
- The investment in new equipment has been funded entirely from the surplus of \$270,233.
- The Group has continued with segment reporting to the Committee.
- Membership retention rates have continued to consistently exceed 75% during the year.

### Subscriptions

At 30 June 1996 subscriptions received in advance, at the old rate of \$30, total \$2,730 and have been disclosed as a liability in the Balance Sheet.

### Internet

This year the Group continued to expand its Internet service

At 30 June 1996 Internet subscriptions received in advance total \$280,666 and have been disclosed as a liability in the Balance Sheet.

### Magazine

Unfortunately, advertising continued to decline during the year. It is expected that the appointment of the new advertising agent will start to redress this situation during the current year. The reduction in advertising revenue has restricted the size of the magazine during the year.

### Training

Training has been disappointing this year and this can be partly attributed to the building works that took place in the first six months of the year. The training equipment was upgraded towards the end of the year and this is expected to allow training to make a more worthwhile contribution this year to the Group's finances.

### Shareware and Disk Sales

Shareware has managed to hold its own this year and recorded a modest increase over last year.

Blank disk sales continue to decline and no longer makes a significant contribution to the Group's finances.

### Conclusion

The Group is in a sound financial position and can now plan for the future with confidence. The incoming committee can plan for the future, including the relocation of the Group, be that in rented premises or in our own premises, knowing that there is a sound financial

base underpinning any decisions.

Finally I would like to express my thanks for the

efforts of the Group's staff who have each contributed to the smooth running of the office during the year. □

### Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 1996

	1996 \$	1995 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Non-Operating	71,553	65,023
Disk Sales	7,178	13,730
Magazine Income	90,108	149,228
Membership	460,760	371,370
PD Sales	25,921	22,877
Training	51,319	59,093
Internet	262,158	50,555
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>968,997</b>	<b>731,876</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising	3,327	1,243
Audit & Accounting	2,500	2,200
Connection Fee	21,895	15,999
Bad Debts	1,240	1,105
Bank Fees	12,769	8,016
Cleaning	4,617	4,452
Commission Advertising	13,823	29,237
Conferences & Meetings	12,572	9,062
Consultancy	25,600	14,650
Delivery Expenses	59,664	39,835
Depreciation	108,344	51,119
Debt Collection Expenses	(887)	1,141
General Expenses	319	1,854
Heat Light & Power	2,979	2,709
Hire of Equipment	-	30
Insurance	4,612	3,370
Legal Fees	2,753	-
Postage	21,014	29,644
Printing & Stationery	20,954	14,183
Production - Magazine	174,455	159,958
Purchases Disks	10,256	15,624
Rent Rates & Taxes	37,223	35,911
Repairs & Maintenance	2,870	8,276
Security	997	770
Software	3,297	1,967
Staff & SIG Amenities	1,219	954
Subscriptions & Donations	412	2,842
Superannuation	3,801	3,688
Telephone & Fax	48,807	37,590
Travel & Accommodation	13,056	19,445
Wages & Salary	82,368	83,097
Workcare	408	1,403
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>697,264</b>	<b>601,374</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>271,733</b>	<b>130,502</b>
Less Transfer to Reserve	1,500	-
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>270,233</b>	<b>130,502</b>



# Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated Balance Sheet as at 30 June 1996

	1996 \$	1995 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	10,387	18,066
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts (3,000)	(3,000)	(3,000)
	7,387	15,066
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	134,889	79,083
AIDC Term Deposit	-	185,942
Commonwealth Bank Bills	519,269	-
Cash on Hand	400	400
Stock on Hand	2,123	3,542
Prepayments	9,352	11,920
	673,420	295,953
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors & Accruals	86,531	51,895
Prepaid Membership Subscriptions	2,730	6,090
Provision for Holiday Pay	3,836	2,685
Prepaid Internet Subscriptions	280,666	108,141
	373,763	168,811
	299,657	127,142
<b>Add: FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Equipment & Fittings	522,967	315,405
Less Provision for Depreciation (238,810)	(238,810)	(126,089)
	284,157	189,316
	583,814	316,458
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Membership Equity 1 July 1995	309,325	178,823
Equipment Reserve	4,256	7,133
	313,581	185,956
Net Income for Year	270,233	130,502
	583,814	316,458

## Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1996

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared and presented in accordance with Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards. The accounts have been prepared using historical cost convention and do not take into account changing money values or except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied.

### 2. Stock and Purchases

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis.

### 3. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are brought to account at cost less accumulated depreciation. The carrying value of fixed assets has been reviewed to ensure that it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of those assets.

### 4. Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is first available for use.

### 5. Prepaid Subscriptions

Because of the policy in March 1993 to allow members to pay subscriptions in advance a new account was opened to account for this liability. All subscriptions relating to the period after 30 June 1996 have been recorded in this account and will be reallocated to income in the year in which it will be earned.

## Auditor's Report to the Members of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated

I advise that I have audited the financial statements, including the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts, of the Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated ("the Group") for the year ended 30 June, 1996 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Rule 37 of the Group's rules. I have not been requested to audit, or express an opinion on, any matters not contained within that Rule, and accordingly no such opinion is expressed herein.

I have obtained all the information and explanations requested.

In my opinion:

- the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts are properly drawn up:
  - to exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 30 June, 1996, and
  - in accordance with the books of account of the Group, and
- the rules of the Group relating to the administration of funds have been properly observed.

Dated this 29th day of August, 1996.

Peter G Salter, FCA  
Registered Company Auditor

## AUSTAL DATA PROCESSING SERVICES

Ph:(03) 9894-0199 Fax:(03) 9894-7688  
E-Mail: austcomp@ozemail.com.au

### Hard Drives

540Mb Fujitsu.....	\$234
850Mb Western Digital.....	\$267
1.3Gb Maxtor.....	\$299
1.6Gb Maxtor.....	\$337
2.0Gb Maxtor.....	\$402

### Modems

Avtek MegaModem 288.....	\$299
Banska 33.6K Ext/Int.....	\$359
Banska Voice 33.6K.....	\$379
Comcorp 33.6K Ext.....	\$299
Dynalink 33.6K Int.....	\$209
Dynalink 28.8Ext.....	\$229
Hayes Accura-MM.....	\$399
Hayes Optima-BM.....	\$499
Netcomm 33.6K R/ster.....	\$349
Netcomm Socket Rocket.....	\$509
Netcomm Voice 33.6.....	\$385
Taskmaster PRO.....	\$439
U.S Robotics Sportster.....	\$309

### Memory

4MB.....	\$50
8MB/8MB EDO.....	\$80/90
16MB/16MB EDO.....	\$160/170

### Monitors

14"/15" KTX SVGA.....	\$345/457
14"/15" Creative SVGA.....	\$357/538
17" KTX 0.26dp Digital.....	\$889

### Multimedia

Creative Home Pack	
8X CD-ROM, SB 16, Spks	
11 Microsoft titles.....	\$448
Creative Value Pack	
8X CD-ROM, SB 16, Spks	
8 Software titles.....	\$393
Quad SCSI CD-ROM Int.....	\$241
Eight Speed CD-ROM.....	\$185
Phone Blaster.....	\$469
Net Blaster.....	\$649
Video Blaster.....	\$607
Sound Blaster 16 PnP.....	\$125
Sound Blaster 32PnP.....	\$189
Creative CDR-4210 CD-Recorder	
4x Read/2x Write.....	\$1434
Kodak Digital Cameras	
1MB, 493x373 res.....	\$507
4MB, 756x504 res.....	\$1074

### CPU & M/Board

AMD 586-133.....	\$209
Pentium 100.....	\$379
Pentium 120.....	\$439
Pentium 133.....	\$562
Pentium 150.....	\$684
Pentium 166.....	\$889
Pentium Pro.....	\$Call

### Misc.

Seagate 800Mb Tape Bkup.....	\$297
KTX 4800 Colour Scanner.....	\$599

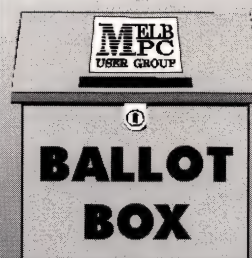
**We do Repairs and Upgrades from \$45/hour.**  
**Call for prices on other parts.**  
**Free delivery to Melb PC User Group members.**



# Annual General Meeting and Elections

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Stan Johnstone, Secretary



### Nomination Form

Position(s) for which nomination is made (tick as appropriate).

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| President        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vice-President   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Secretary        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Treasurer        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Committee Member | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Member's name and membership number

.....

Member's signature of acceptance

.....

Proposer's name and membership number

.....

Proposer's signature

.....

Seconder's name and membership number

.....

Seconder's signature

.....

Date ..... / ..... / .....

Nominations of candidates shall be in writing, signed by two members of the group and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination). They must be received by the Secretary before 5.00 pm on 25 October 1996.

Nominations received after the closing time will not be accepted.

Nominees may optionally submit one statement, *not exceeding one hundred words*, in support of their nomination(s). These must be received by the closing time for nominations. Statements received late, or those exceeding 100 words, will be rejected. ☐

**N**otice is hereby given that the 13th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated shall be held on Wednesday 4 December 1996 at the Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville at 6.30 pm.

The December issue of *PC Update* will give details of Committee nominations and proxy forms for those unable to attend in person.

### Agenda—Annual General Meeting

#### 1. Minutes

To consider and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution; "That the Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting held on 6 December 1995, be approved as a true and correct record".

#### 2. Reports

To receive the report from the President.

#### 3. Election of Committee of Management

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and eight ordinary members of Committee.

#### 4. Accounts

To receive and consider the Treasurer's report and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution: "That the statement pursuant to section 30 (3) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30 June 1996 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30 June 1996 be accepted."

#### 5. Appointment of Auditor

Under rule 37 such Auditor may not be a member of the Committee, but may be a member of the Group, and shall be a member of the Australian Society of Accountants, Victorian Division or the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia, Victorian Branch, in public practice.

### Nominations

Nominations must either be posted to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne PC User Group Inc  
PO Box 283  
South Melbourne vic 3205

or be hand- or courier-delivered to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne PC User Group Inc  
66 Albert Road  
South Melbourne vic 3205

Nominations by fax, e-mail or BBS cannot be accepted. ☐



# Nine ways to kill an organisation

## FROM THE WEB

1. Don't participate beyond paying your dues (let "them" handle things), then complain that members have no voice in the management of the organisation.
2. Decline all committee appointments and offices (because you're too busy and your time is too important), then offer vociferous advice on how they should do things.
3. If appointed to a committee, don't work (it's a courtesy appointment) and then complain that the organisation has stagnated.
4. If you attend meetings, don't initiate new ideas and then play "devil's advocate" to those ideas submitted by others.
5. Don't rush to pay your dues (they're too high anyway), then complain about the lack of quality or sparse number of services offered.
6. Don't encourage others to become members (that's selling), then complain that the membership is not growing.
7. Don't read the newsletter or other communications (they're not important), then complain that you're not kept informed.
8. Don't volunteer your talents (that's ego fulfillment), then complain that you're never asked, never appreciated, and never recognised as the "expert" you obviously are.
9. Have faith in no one and nothing; don't take any chances on untried procedures (after all, you're not a gambler). Let someone else put their reputation on the line and take the risks, then be sure to enjoy the benefits that result from another's leap of faith.

And if by chance the group grows in spite of your contribution, grasp every opportunity to tell the youngsters how tough it was and how hard you worked "in the old days" to bring the group to its present level of success. □

## E-mail

### NETIQUETTE

*Ash Nallawalla*



```

-
,._.\ \ Ash Nallawalla                      Limit to about 76 cols->
/  Oz  \ Mail Address, Phone, Fax. Member, Melbourne PC User Group.
\_,--.x/ Edit/replace text but don't exceed 4 lines as per netiquette
      v  +++ Fancy borders count as a line ~~~~~+*****
  
```

Do you write your mail like this, i.e. below the stuff you see above? There are two problems there—the first is that it is a "signature" file and you must write above it—use your arrow keys to go above it. The second is that you need to change the text in it—there should be an icon in the slipkit group/folder to do it. My mailer adds my signature after I close my message and I never see it while writing the message.

If you still have trouble, write to [help@melbpc.org.au](mailto:help@melbpc.org.au). □

## Just a mouse click away

### SURFING

*Barbara Maple*



**T**he sort of information you can find on the www is astounding. You can find information about museums, countries, national parks, animals and gardening, all at the click of your mouse button, without ever leaving your home.

The way the information is presented is fascinating too, every site seems to try to out do the next with colourful graphics and useful information. Some sites make it easy for you to find information, not only at that site, but on related sites too.

One of my current favourites is the "Discover Alberta" site at <http://www.discoveralberta.com/>, it's interesting, packed with information and easy to use.

The heading on the page is extremely colourful, giving you a taste of the things you can see on your virtual visit—via the web—or on a real visit you might take in the future.

Along one side of the page are some icons which link you to additional

information, on topics such as festivals, attractions, trips and activities, and tour operators. The site has direct links to other Canadian cities, including Calgary, Edmonton, Banff, Jasper and Canmore.

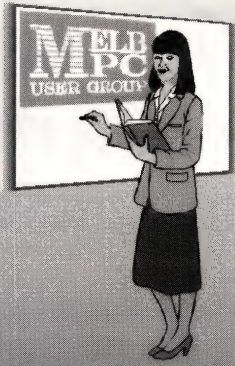
Another nice touch is the search engine. I tested it and was surprised with the result. A search for "Waterton"—a national park in Alberta that borders on the US state of Montana, turned up 27 URLs with information about Waterton National Park.

If you've been to Alberta, as I have, a visit to this site is sure to bring back memories. If you haven't visited Alberta, but would like to, make this site one of your first stops when you start planning your trip. □





# Training courses



OCTOBER 1996 - JANUARY 1997

Paul Palcsek

## Applications

### Introduction to Access v2.0: \$100

Ray Azzopardi

Two 2.5-hour sessions:  
6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Wed 9 Oct,  
16 Oct. Enrol by 3 Oct.

Two 2.5-hour sessions:  
6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Wed 13 Nov,  
27 Nov. Enrol by 7 Nov.  
6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Tue 3 Dec, 10  
Dec.

Enrol by 27 Nov.

This course will get you started on the road to making use of the powerful features in Access. You will learn how to create tables and queries. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

**Prerequisites:** Experience with Windows and a mouse.

### Introduction to Word 6.0 Macros: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 23 Oct.  
Enrol by 17 Oct

Do you want to automate repetitive tasks? Do you want to tailor Word's toolbars to suite your needs? Learn how to use Word's powerful macro recorder to create your own macros. Learn how to modify Word's toolbars to save unnecessary key strokes.

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

## Notes

To book or enquire about courses, telephone the office on (03) 9699 6222, 10 am – 3 pm, weekdays.

Courses are held at the group's premises, usually in the training room. Some courses are held in the SIG room, so check when you arrive.

The address is:

2nd Floor, 66 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205.

There is usually plenty of parking available nearby in the evenings or at weekends.

### Quicken for small business: \$180

Viv Martin

Four 3-hour sessions:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 8 Oct,  
15 Oct, 22 Oct, 29 Oct.

Enrol by 2 Oct

Two 6-hour sessions:  
9.30 am–4.30 pm, Tue 12 Nov,  
19 Nov. Enrol by 6 Nov  
Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants.

**Prerequisites:** Basic Windows experience assumed.

### Starting Excel v5: \$175

John Fitzsimons

Two 5-hour sessions:  
9.30 am–4.30 pm, Tue 8 Oct,  
7 Oct. Enrol by 1 Oct.

Organise your facts and figures using Excel. You can use Excel as a simple database to keep track of assets or use it to keep track of your bank accounts. Excel has hundreds of uses. This course will give you a solid introduction to Microsoft Excel v5. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

**Prerequisites:** Experience with using a mouse and Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 graphics: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 21 Nov.  
Enrol by 15 Nov.

A picture says a thousand words. Learn how to use graphics to enhance your documents, letters, faxes etc.

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 long documents: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 28 Nov.  
Enrol by 22 Nov.

Do you have to manage long documents? Do you like to brainstorm? Use Word's inbuilt features to manage long documents, theses, novels, etc. Learn how to add section breaks, headers, footers, tables, indexes, page numbers, etc. Use Word's outlining feature to brainstorm ideas.

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word Documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 merging and templates: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 7 Nov.  
Enrol by 1 Nov.

Save time and look professional. Learn how to create consistent and professional looking memos, letters, etc, using templates. Keep your customers or club members informed by using mail merge to create personalised letters. Also learn how to print labels and envelopes.

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 tables: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 14 Nov.  
Enrol by 8 Nov.

Tables have hundreds of uses. Keep track of addresses, phone numbers, assets etc. Present data clearly, concisely and in a pleasing format. Learn how to insert formulas to produce accurate totals. Learn how to incorporate graphics in tables.

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

## Communications

### Communications workshop: \$60

Doug Brooke

One 4-hour session:  
10.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 5 Oct.  
Enrol by 1 Oct.

One 4-hour session:  
10.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 26 Oct.  
Enrol by 18 Oct.

One 4-hour session:  
10.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 23 Nov.  
Enrol by 15 Nov.

One 4-hour session:  
6.30 pm–10.30 pm, Fri 23 Jan.  
Enrol by 17 Jan.

Data communications depends heavily on modems. This course is discussion of principles and fundamentals of modem communications that will allow you to more effectively use a modem to communicate on the BBS

and like services, including the Internet. You will be shown hardware requirements, software requirements, diagnostics and typical setups so that you can more confidently use your modem, PC and telephone line. An introduction to networks, file transfers and other matters will also be covered.

**Prerequisites:** A good working knowledge of command line computing is assumed.

### Setting up Telemate and Telix: \$45

Doug Brooke

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 22 Nov.  
Enrol by 15 Nov.

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 30 Jan.  
Enrol by 24 Jan.

Designed to help novices set up and use Telemate and Telix. Includes troubleshooting and useful commands.

**Prerequisites:** Command line computing knowledge assumed.

### Using Blue Wave: \$45

Toby Bainbridge

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 15 Nov.  
Enrol by 8 Nov.

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 29 Jan.  
Enrol by 23 Jan.

Basic setup, hints, tips and configuring Blue Wave communication offline reader.

**Prerequisites:** Must have done either Comms workshop or Starting Comms.

### Using the Melb PC BBS: \$45

Barry McMenomy

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 29 Nov.  
Enrol by 22 Nov.

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 6 Dec.  
Enrol by 29 Nov.

One 3-hour session:  
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 31 Jan.  
Enrol by 24 Jan.

Basic look at the Melb PC BBS with hints and tips on using all the various menu items. Also covers initial log ons, using the message areas, net-mail to other systems. Fidonet and BBS etiquette.

**Prerequisites:** Must have logged onto the Melb PC BBS.



## Internet

**Note:** Internet courses are best done in the sequence shown—1 to 5; or 1, 2 or 3, 4 and 5.

### 1. What is the Internet?: \$45

Lynn Pollock

One 3-hour session:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 5 Oct.

Enrol by 27 Sep.

One 3-hour session:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sun 24 Nov.

Enrol by 19 Nov.

One 3-hour session:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 14 Dec.

Enrol by 6 Dec.

An overview and explanation of the Melb PC Internet service. Live demonstrations of all the major programs that go to making up the Internet. Discussion of the Hardware items involved. General questions concerning Internet connections.

**Prerequisites:** None.

### 2. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 3.1: \$90

Lynn Pollock

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 12/13 Oct.

Enrol by 4 Oct.

One 6-hour session:

9.00 am–4 pm, Wed 6 Nov.

Enrol by 31 Oct.

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov.

Enrol by 11 Nov.

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 7/8 Dec.

Enrol by 2 Dec.

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 18/19 Jan.

Enrol by 10 Jan.

This is a basic course exclusively for Windows 3.1 and 3.11 users. Hands-on individual installation of Windows 3.x Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including Netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install basic Windows 3.x Internet software or novice users of the Internet.

**Prerequisites:** Must have a good working knowledge of Windows 3.1.

### 3. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 95: \$90

Lynn Pollock

One 6-hour session:

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Wed 2 Oct.

Enrol by 26 Sep.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

12/13 Oct. Enrol by 4 Oct.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

16/17 Nov. Enrol by 8 Nov.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

7/8 Dec. Enrol by 29 Nov.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

18/19 Jan. Enrol by 10 Jan.

This is a basic course exclusively for Windows 95 users. Hands-on individual installation of Windows 95 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including Netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install basic Windows 3.x Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want to use the inbuilt Windows 95 32-bit TCP/IP software.

**Prerequisites:** Must have a good working knowledge of Windows 95.

### 4. Effectively using Web Browsers: \$60

Lynn Pollock

One 4-hour session:

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 5 Oct.

Enrol by 27 Sep.

One 4-hour session:

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sun 24 Nov.

Enrol by 19 Nov.

One 4-hour session:

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 14 Dec.

Enrol by 6 Dec.

Complete demonstration and explanation of all features and configurations in the latest versions of Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring new helper applications, managing bookmarks or favourites, and tips & tricks to maximise your browser usage. Discussion on various searching techniques for locating information on the Web and other browser-related issues.

**Prerequisites:** Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

### 5. More using Melb PC Internet service: \$90

One 6-hour session:

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 6 Oct.

Enrol by 1 Oct.

One 6-hour session:

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 23 Nov.

Enrol by 18 Nov.

Complete demonstration and explanation of e-mail (advanced packages) FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, IRC Network, newsgroups and offline readers, list servers, session timers and more. In addition, connection problems will be discussed as well as general tips and tricks to improve your connection time. A set of detailed instructions will be discussed and practised detailing how to upgrade or add to your Internet software without causing major problems or heartaches.

**Prerequisites:** Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

## Operating Systems, Diagnostics, Hardware

### Archiving files: \$45

Peter Freeman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 31 Oct.

Enrol by 25 Oct.

The similarities between all the archivers, command line archiving and unarchiving, compressing files for backups, and more.

**Prerequisites:** A knowledge of the DOS directory structure is assumed.

### Backup and disaster recovery: \$45

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 20 Nov.

Enrol by 14 Nov.

Guides students into preparation of panic disk to cope with start up problems and failure of hardware and software.

**Prerequisites:** Understanding of simple computer terminology. Experience with basic DOS and the computing environment.

### Command line computing: \$120

Tom Coleman

Four 2-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Mon 7 Oct,

14 Oct, 21 Oct, 28 Oct.

Enrol by 1 Oct.

Covers techniques and guidance for users who have a grasp of the fundamentals of DOS, file types, directory structure, and the meaning of basic computer technology.

**Prerequisites:** Must be familiar with basic DOS commands, and directories. Students must have frequent access to a DOS-based PC outside of class.

### Computer basics: \$120

Mary Levens

Four 2-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Tue 5 Nov,

12 Nov, 19 Nov, 26 Nov.

Enrol by 30 Oct.

Take control of your computer with this hands-on guided discovery of DOS-based computing. Covers terminology, basic DOS commands, directory structure, file types, brief discussion of hardware and software. Knowledge of these topics is prerequisite for other courses.

**Prerequisites:** No prior computing experience required. Students must have frequent access to a DOS-based PC outside of class.

### Housekeeping a computer: \$45

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Tue 28 Jan.

Enrol by 22 Jan.

Looking after your PC to get the best performance out of what you have. Avoiding bad habits, bad practices.

**Prerequisites:** Understanding of simple computer terminology. Experience with basic DOS and the computing environment.

### How to buy a computer: Free

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 25 Oct.

Enrol by 18 Oct.

One 3-hour session:

10.30 am–1.30 pm, Sun 24 Nov.

Enrol by 18 Nov.

One 3-hour session:

10.30 am–1.30 pm, Sun 1 Dec.

Enrol by 25 Nov.

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 12 Dec.

Enrol by 6 Dec.

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips

### Memory management: \$45

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 1 Nov.

Enrol by 25 Oct.

Techniques for maximising your PC's available memory, CONFIG.SYS commands, diagnostics.

**Prerequisites:** Basic DOS skills.

### More Windows v3.1: 8 hours: \$145

Barry Fredrickson

Four 2-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Mon 4 Nov,

11 Nov, 18 Nov, 25 Nov.

Enrol by 29 Oct.

Do you want to use Windows? and get more out of it? Do you want to organise Program Manager to suit your needs; control your hard drive using File Manager; run multiple programs at the same time; run DOS programs under Windows? If so, then this is the course for you.

**Prerequisites:** Students should have at least tried to use Windows.

### Seamist

Tom Coleman

Two sessions: Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov

Enrol by 4 Nov

This our annual live-in weekend. This is a highly useful session for all computer users. Bring your own computer, we do not provide any. We provide experts who will help you sort out your problems. You can see how other people use their computer; you can pick everyone's brains. It makes no difference if you have only just bought your first computer or whether you are one of the voodoo high priests of computing. You always pick up tonnes of info. There will be a telephone line for those who wish to experiment with their modems. Seamist is a lovely place on the edge of the state forest. Bring your family. There is plenty for them to see and do. The facilities are excellent, the food magnificent. You will receive Seamist details and exact instructions on how to get there when you make your booking through the office. See the article in this issue of PC Update for costs and additional details. Or contact the office.

**Prerequisites:** None.



**Upgrade to Windows 95: \$137.50**

Len Krois

One 7.5-hour session:

9.00 am–5.30 pm, Sat 19 Oct.

Enrol by 11 Oct.

This course is for Windows v3.1 (or v3.11) users moving to Windows 95. A thorough overview of all of the new features you are getting with Windows 95 so you can quickly convert your Windows 3.1 skills to the new Windows 95 arena.

**Prerequisites:** You should be familiar with Windows v3.1 to the level of the Starting Windows v3.1 course.

**Virus protection: \$45**

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 8 Nov.

Enrol by 1 Nov.

Virus avoidance, detection and removal, viruses explained, recognising viruses, safe housekeeping practices.

**Prerequisites:** "Computing Basics" course or an equivalent knowledge of computing.

**Windows 3.1 File Manager: \$37.50**

John Fitzsimons

One 2.5-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Thu 24 Oct.

Enrol by 18 Oct.

This course will allow you to take charge of your hard drive. It will explain what directories are, and how to structure them. It will show you how to find files, format diskettes, associate files to programs, and other File Manager options.

**Prerequisites:** Students should have at least tried to use Windows 3.1. ☐

**Notes**

To book or enquire about courses, telephone the office on (03) 9699 6222, 10 am – 3 pm, weekdays.

Courses are held at the group's premises, usually in the training room. Some courses are held in the SIG room, so check when you arrive.

The address is:  
2nd Floor, 66 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205.

There is usually plenty of parking available nearby in the evenings or at weekends.

**Training order form**

Course Title	Starting Date	Amount
Total:		

Payment details/credit card authority. Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

Name		Member No.
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		Postcode
Telephone Numbers	BH: ( )	AH: ( )
Cheque (payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc.) enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> or Debit my credit card (Bankcard <input type="checkbox"/> / MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> / Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Expiry Date ..... / ..... with		
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on (03) 9270 1483**



# Off or On?

## HARDWARE

Boon Lee



**A**t one time or another, most PC owners will have heard that it's better to leave a PC on, than to switch it on and off all day long. The reasoning behind this advice is that by leaving the PC on we will get the maximum life from our hard drives.

To what extent is the above advice valid for home PC users? Although there are pros and cons for either course of action, I hope the following information will help you make the right choice.

Let's start with the basis of the advice to leave the PC on 24-hours-a-day.

Consider your hard disk, on which you've stored all your software and data. The specification for every hard disk drive includes a measurement of something called the "mean time between failure" (MTBF).

The MTBF is typically measured in hours. As an example, the MTBF of a current *Western Digital* disk drive is 300,000 hours. This means that if disk drives with this MTBF are operated 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year, on average they will run for 34 years before the drives fail ([www ref: http://www.wdc.com/products/drives/drivers-ed/mtbf.html](http://www.wdc.com/products/drives/drivers-ed/mtbf.html)).

The MTBF doesn't take into account shutdowns and power ups, which place extra stress on the disk drive mechanism. So it's logical to conclude that the more often you turn your computer on and off, the less likely it is that your disk drive will attain its rated MTBF.

That, in a nutshell, is the rationale behind the advice to run a PC 24-hours-a-day.

But, before you decide you are *never* going to turn off your PC, there are other points to consider

- Your electricity bill will go up, although it might not be by much, especially if you have a late-model monitor, with an auto shutdown or low power feature.
- A thunderstorm—when you are asleep or away from home—can expose your PC to a lightning strike. If you are home and awake during a thunderstorm warning, you would turn off the PC and unplug it. Even if there is no thunderstorm, leaving your machine on 24 hours a day can expose it to power

spikes that can occur in the electricity supply. If this happens, repairs could be costly.

- A knock to a PC when it is turned on and the hard disk is spinning, can damage the hard disk. Different homes have different levels of exposure to this type of risk. From personal experience, I can tell you that when my young daughter had school friends stay for a sleepover, their playing near the PC exposed my PC to considerable risk!
- Mechanical parts in the PC, such as the cooling fan, are not rated for heavy duty use. If you leave your PC on 24-hours-a-day and one of these mechanical parts wears out, it could result in further damage to your PC. If, for example, the fan fails and you don't notice it, the heat build up could do a lot of damage.
- Electronic equipment that conforms to Australian National Electrical Codes is safe to use in specified conditions. However there is always a small risk of a catastrophic failure that could result in a fire. If that happens when you are present, it is dangerous. If it happens when you are away or asleep, it can have tragic consequences. The cause of a recent Melbourne house fire, in which children were killed, was attributed to the PC monitor catching fire.
- What's good for your hard drive is bad for your monitor. The life of a monitor depends on the cathode ray tube (CRT), which also happens to be its most expensive part. If you leave the monitor on, you'll reduce the life of the CRT. Furthermore, the heat generated inside the monitor tends to dry parts, such as electrolytic capacitors, which shortens their life.

Taking all the above into consideration, I've decided to

### should your PC run

### 24-hours-a-day,

### 7-days-a-week?

power-up my PC when I first need it. After that, I don't shut it down until I go to bed.

I've also taken the following steps to minimise the risks listed above.

- I've configured my monitor to go to low power or shutdown mode after 5 minutes of inactivity. If you have an old monitor without an automatic low-power/shutdown feature, you can manually switch off the monitor, while leaving the PC on.
- I use a surge protector (available from any electronics store and most larger supermarkets) to level out any spikes in the electricity supply to the PC.
- I turn off the PC and unplug the electrical cord if there is a thunderstorm warning. Because in a real thunderstorm, just turning off the PC may not be good enough to protect it. □

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# Norton AntiVirus

## PROTECT YOUR PC

Ash Nallawalla

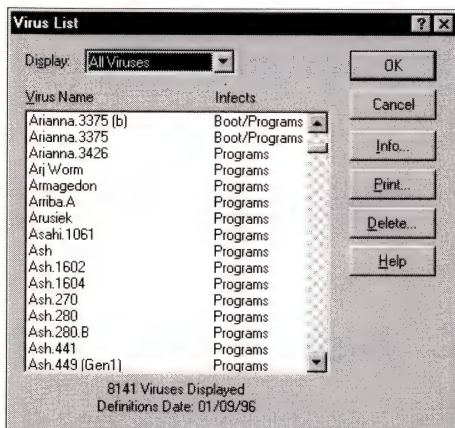


Figure 1. There are a few "Ash" viruses among NAV's 8141 definitions.

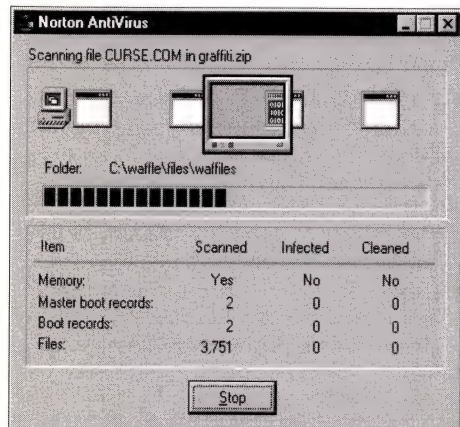


Figure 2. The contents of compressed archives are also checked.

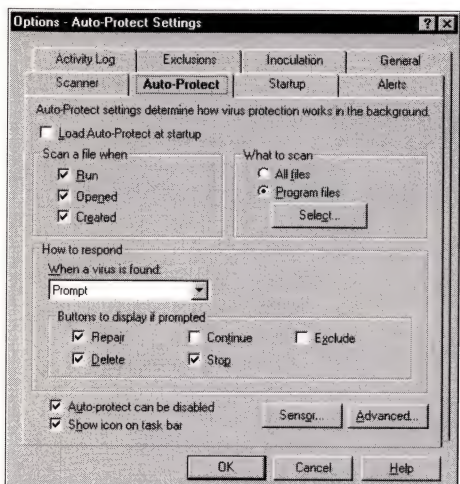


Figure 3. Auto-Protect options.

**A**t work we use Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95 (NAV95) and Windows 3.1 on all PCs. They are separate products; this review concerns the Windows 95 version.

There is also a NAV version 3.0 for Novell NetWare and one for Windows NT, which feature centralised installation, updates and configuration. A later NAV95 version 2.0 also protects against Internet downloads automatically but is not reviewed here. NAV95 won the *Editors' Choice* award from PC Magazine in May 1996 and Network Computing in September 1995.

NAV95 protects against the dangers of computer viruses, which are malicious programs that have entered your computer without your consent. Viruses replicate themselves in their attempt to

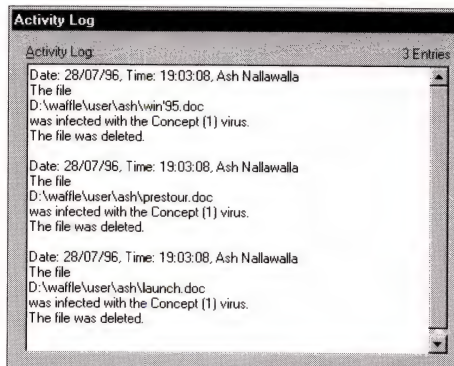


Figure 4. NAV95 actions can be logged.

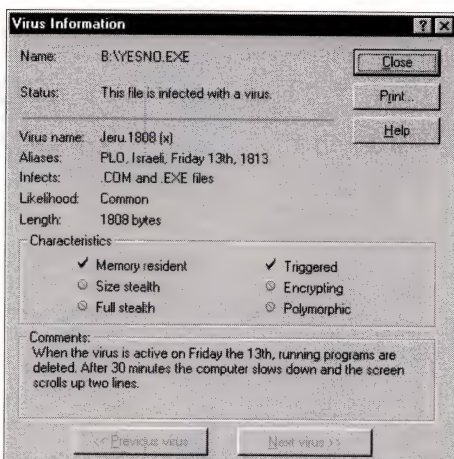


Figure 5. The Jerusalem virus is found!

**I trust my PC to  
NAV95 with no  
reservations**

spread to other computers. A known virus is one whose characteristic "signature" is recorded in a definition file (see Figure 1). An unknown virus is not recorded in the signature but can be detected by observing virus-like activity such as self replication, program modification or damage. NAV95 detects and repairs both types of attack. It can also check files inside compressed archives (see Figure 2).

NAV95 handles the following virus types:

- **Memory Resident:** Stays in memory after it activates.
- **Size Stealth:** Tries to conceal itself from detection by disguising its size.
- **Full Stealth:** Tries to conceal itself from detection by disguising its size and attributes.
- **Triggered Event:** Performs some action based on certain criteria, e.g. a certain date.
- **Encrypting:** Encrypts its code to make detection more difficult.
- **Polymorphic:** Appears differently in each infected file.

### Info Box

#### Norton AntiVirus

#### Minimum System Requirements

- Windows 95
- 80386 DX
- 4 MB RAM
- 6 MB hard disk

#### Availability and cost

Available from all major software resellers for approximately \$99.



- Macro: Microsoft Word and Excel macros can contain system commands that can harm your data.

### In use

A default installation is the safest course of action for a user. It may be overkill for a stand-alone PC that does not receive files that have been in other PCs or where there is no connection to another PC via a network or the Internet. Such a user may wish to scan the PC manually at regular intervals. Most others should opt for NAV95's automatic protection (see Figure 3), which checks programs when they are run. A related concept is inoculation, which takes a snapshot of vital files and checks them for changes later on. It is refreshing to see user-variable levels of protection.

Scanning 5217 files on my two drives manually took 14 minutes, 13 seconds. This is a trivial investment of time for peace of mind. Some months ago NAV95 helped to identify a Word Macro virus in three files sent by another major software vendor (see Figure 4). I have a small selection of viruses that are commonly found here and NAV95 detected them all (see Figure 5). Fortunately, none of my hard disks have ever been infected, so I have not had the chance to test the repair feature of NAV95 on a hard disk.

### Support and upgrades

Support for NAV is available on the CompuServe SYMNEW forum, both in the form of one-on-one technical support and update files. Its web

page is <http://www.symantec.com/nav/> on the Internet, where updates and other timely information is available. The nearest Symantec BBS for us is at (02) 9879 6322.

The single upgrade file is "intelligent" enough to see whether you are using Windows 95, NetWare, Windows NT or Windows 3.1 and it will apply the appropriate patch. MIS administrators will appreciate this feature.

My shrinkwrap copy of NAV identified itself (in Help/About) as an unregistered evaluation copy but otherwise resembled the product described in the *User's Guide*. It turned out that the upgrade patch causes this but the product is otherwise unaffected. This can be fixed by deleting the file NAVOPTS.DAT and renaming NAVOPTS.SAV to the former. The files are in your \Program Files\Norton Antivirus folder. Two other changes have to be made in the Options dialog box. In "What to scan" select Program Files and make new entries for .DOC, .DOT, and .CLA files. In the "Scan a file when" options, check "Created".

### Conclusion

NAV95 provides the peace of mind needed by computer users, particularly those of us who receive files and programs from others. Its unobtrusive nature is ideal for beginners who simply want to get on with their work without too much distraction. While I take some commonsense precautions such as obtaining the latest virus definitions and scanning all new diskettes manually, I trust my PC to NAV95 with no reservations. □

## Strength in numbers

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**Peter G P Hooper,  
Software Registration Coordinator**

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- Leave me a message on the BBS

(Peter Hooper) or

- Send me a note via snail mail to  
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and if there is sufficient interest we can investigate arranging a deal. □

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# V-Buster 8

## SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bob Burt



**one of the best  
virus-combating  
programs**

**available**

### Info Box

#### V-Buster 8

#### Availability and cost

The Australian agent for V-Buster is Q-Computer Pty Ltd, 8/104 Compton Road, Woodridge QLD 4114  
Ph: (07) 3808 3099, (07) 3209 3425  
Fax: (07) 3808 7088

RRP: \$100.00

However, Dr Looi has offered to supply V-Buster, strictly for *Melbourne PC User Group members only*, directly from his business address in Malaysia (below) at RM100.00 (about A\$50) per copy, which includes airmail postage.

Looi Software  
1st Floor  
Pulau Tikus Plaza 441-1-8  
Burmah Road 10350  
Penang, Malaysia  
Ph: 0011 6 04 226 0944  
0011 6 04 226 0945  
Fax: 0011 6 04 226 0946  
0011 6 04 226 0948

Special price: RM80.00 + RM20.00 postage.

**T**his virus detection and eradication program made its first appearance in *PC Update* way back in 1991. Since then, it's made repeat appearances as new and improved versions were issued. Since the latest version, V-Buster 8 has just now reached us from Malaysia, further attention is now warranted.

It is no simple task to keep ahead of the pernicious creation of computer viruses, as testified by the frequent issue of new versions of software to combat them. In version 7, V-Buster had reached a very satisfactory level of control over these insidious pests, which are so wasteful of time, energy and resources. At that point V-Buster comprised a suite of 14 programs, to be installed to a subdirectory of your hard disk.

#### What V-Buster does

Essentially, the V-Buster system creates a file, *SENTRY.COM*, which checks your boot sector, partition tables and system files on boot-up. Its parent file, *VBUSTER.EXE*, has the capacity to save and rebuild your hard disk's boot sectors and partition tables. It can detect and inactivate virtually all known viruses and, perhaps even more usefully, it can also detect and deal with all unknown boot viruses.

Subsidiary programs variously monitor all diskettes accessed, stop the execution

of infected files, enable you to add your own virus scan codes into *VBUSTER.EXE*, verify checksums of your files, write-protect hard disks and more mundanely, enable you to change screen colours and background patterns for the V-Buster suite. As virus scan codes are fished out from infected boot sectors, partition tables and files they are inserted into *VBUSTER.EXE* automatically, V-Buster is self-upgrading.

One subsidiary program, *CMCHK.COM*, is worth a specific mention. Some computers and security programs move

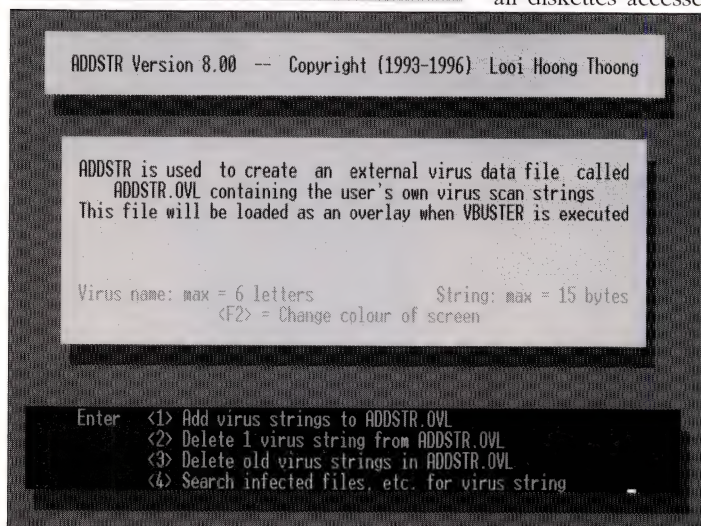


Figure 1. Use this program to fish out scan codes or add your own.

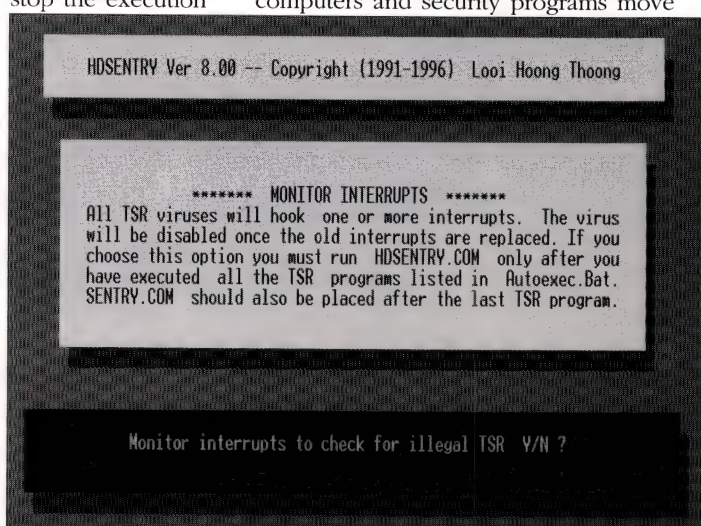


Figure 2. Use HDSENTRY to create SENTRY.COM for your computer.



the BIOS into the RAM area and prevent overwriting by modifying Interrupt 12—just like a boot virus does. With CMCK.COM you can create a file that instructs all the V-Buster programs to ignore the check for modification to memory. This action can be reversed at any time.

### Changes in the new version

While most of the changes in this version are subtle, this can mask the substantial effort that has gone into making them. For example, most of the utilities have been rewritten to optimise the use of space and accelerate the scanning speed. Rewrites have also been undertaken to improve the accuracy of scanning and detection, particularly for unknown or mutating viruses.

Many new routines have also been added. For example, a great job has been done by including effective repair procedures for the Prank Macro and Nuclear viruses, which currently infect only Microsoft Word document files.

VBUSTER.EXE now has switchable modes for

- Partition table and boot sector utilities
- Changing screen colours
- Creating BACKUP.DTA, enabling the rebuilding of any file infected by any virus
- Fastscan for much speedier (but not quite as thorough) scans
- Windows NT/non-standard hard disks
- One-key default scan for disk drives A or B, or hard disk C

A grand total of 8243 listed known viruses can now be detected with this version, although the author, Dr H T Looi, tells me that the next release will list at least 500 more. Don't forget, though, that the great majority, (actually over 95 percent) of these new viruses will still be detected by the current version.

### Conclusion

V-Buster continues to be one of the best virus-combating programs available. It's unobtrusive, effective and economical.

If you are interested in testing the product and you use the Internet, you can download an evaluation copy of V-Buster 8/8243 from Dr Looi's home page at <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/7492>. This is a fully working copy except that it while it will detect infected boot sectors, partition tables and files, it will not repair them.

We also expect to have this evaluation copy on our BBS, but at the time of publication can not confirm this. If it's going to be there, it will be there by the time you read this, so look there first as your downloads will be much faster (and it won't eat into your daily internet allowance!).

# They're not all sharks

## MEMBER'S LETTER

Rod Young



About fifteen months ago, I attended a computer swap meet at Camberwell and spoke to one of the Melb PC people, who convinced me that a 50-year-old train driver could master this extraordinary machine. I took half of his advice and purchased a second-hand AT (not his advice) and joined Melb PC.

Well, the AT was a bad idea, although it did teach me how to play a few games and to think a little about what I wanted. I continued to go to the computer swap meets. At Moonsee Ponds I met **Robert Blanche** who ran a small secondhand stall. Today he supplies new or second-hand parts, and can build anything to your specifications.

Whenever possible I deal with Robert Blanche. His prices at the Swap Meet or Newport shop are most competitive, and if he can't get something or meet a price, he has no hesitation in telling you. Many times he has got me out of trouble. Sometimes because of a faulty component, mostly because of my own stupidity, but his charges are always reasonable.

I am a middle-aged male, who has not seen good old-fashioned service and a genuine relaxed smile from business people for a long time. Prior to entering this hobby I seemed to pick the sharks—I used to see it in their eyes as the dollar signs ticked over. I honestly thought that this computer business would be even worse. Not so! With the help of a very impressive and friendly Melb PC member at Camberwell and a friendly store owner at Newport I have now built two systems, and while the DX4/100 searches the Web, the DX4/120 runs Railroad Tycoon or some other interesting goodies.

The main reason for writing this letter was to praise your magazine; I do like the changes. To praise your ambassadors at the meets, they are great people. And to thank the people that have helped me these last months.

People such as **John Wain**. I have just returned from his **Modem Superstore**. I rang him because I finally met a (large) business that tried to gobble up all my money. I purchased an external Spirit Viper V.34 for some \$500, and for six months was unable to use it, for reasons

that I still don't comprehend.

I looked through *PC Update* and found Modem Superstore and was quoted \$45 over the phone to fix the problem. John Wain met me personally and told me right off that he was a modem specialist, and had no real expertise with the computer itself. Ninety minutes later the Viper was firing on all eight cylinders (actually it had been fine all along). John had replaced the serial port which had a faulty 16550 UART and optimised the system so that it is really flying now. Not only is this guy a genius, he dropped the \$45 fee to \$35 when he found the Melb PC BBS in my comms program, and realised I was a member.

Now how can I let all this pass without telling the world how lucky I have been? Please let me thank all these people. □

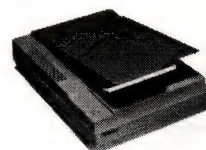
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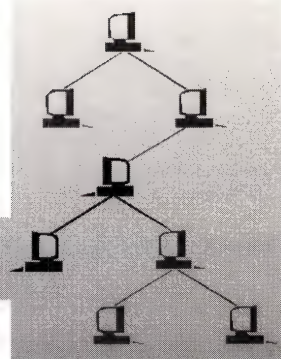
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# An introduction to Object Resource Brokers

## BELOW THE SURFACE

*Tilman Rabich and Noel Craske*



**A**s businesses develop and use computers to solve problems, new problems emerge. For example, how do users share information that they have accumulated on different systems? Today, the variety of software applications running on different hardware platforms complicates the task of establishing communication across a Local Area Network (LAN) or a Wide Area Network (WAN).

In December 1991 we saw a graphic example of this sort of problem, when the Commonwealth Bank took over the State Bank of Victoria and the two banks' computer systems needed to be integrated. It took a long time to develop and implement the solutions that enabled the new Commonwealth Bank to take advantage of the old State Bank's information.

To do this, the banks needed to design and implement applications that could integrate systems initially designed for different software and hardware configurations. Custom solutions naturally take a long time to design and implement. Development costs can be substantial and the solutions themselves are often inflexible and costly to maintain.

The Object Management Group (OMG) developed the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) as a way of solving just this sort of problem.

The OMG, located in Framingham Massachusetts (USA), has more than 500 members, including IBM, DEC, Novell, USG, Hewlett-Packard, and NCR [1]. A notable absentee is Microsoft. Instead of joining the OMG, Microsoft decided to create its own version of an Object Broker System—called the Component Object Model (COM)—which works within Microsoft's Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) technology. By going its own way, Microsoft made the goal of achieving a unified, universal standard much more difficult.

CORBA was designed to simplify programming and facilitate the distribution of portable applications that could work across a diverse range of platforms and networks. CORBA can be used to solve problems encountered when integrating legacy applications and systems, and to provide the flexibility necessary in rapidly changing business environments.

### The CORBA philosophy

Fundamental to CORBA's development was the premise that it is more efficient to have smaller, more robust applications that run on (and communicate between) workstations and file servers than to have large mainframe applications that communicate with dumb terminals.

These smaller applications are called by various names—applets, distributed objects, software components, etc. CORBA is the underlying architecture (or standard) that makes it possible to implement these software components across networks [1].

Because CORBA-based applications are designed to be portable, they make life easier for developers. With CORBA developers have a standardised set of facilities to retrieve or manipulate data on host machines. Because the facilities are standardised, the users (and their applications) need not be aware of the tasks required to locate, retrieve or manipulate information from different databases and data files on one or more hosts.

With CORBA, access to any database is achieved with equal ease. A user doesn't need to know, for example, that some of the information is held in an Oracle database and some in a Sybase database. Using CORBA interfaces are standardised and integrating applications is easier.

CORBA is based on a combination of two existing methodologies—distributed client-server computing and object-oriented computing. The result is distributed object computing, which enables applications across networks to access and share objects. This means that these distributed objects become common to all applications that implement CORBA.

Distributed client-server computing is economical, because it enables the sharing of expensive resources. For example, printers and other computer resources can be shared by everyone on a network, thus saving the cost of buying individual resources for each user. Another benefit is increased efficiency, because the computing workload can be distributed and applications can be placed on the most suitable machines.

There are many benefits from designing and building object-oriented software. Systems have attributes and

**deliver seamless**

**integration between**

**distributed objects**

behaviours based on real world models. Systems are designed so that objects within them can perform only certain procedural tasks—called operations or methods. Every object and operation must be clearly defined and this results in fewer errors on implementation. Relationships between objects and the resulting interactions are also defined and the resulting software is highly modular.

These software components (objects) can be built more independently and, because the same software objects can be used in different applications, this method eventually leads to lower cost and faster development of applications.

The marrying of these two methodologies to produce the CORBA architecture was done to bring together the benefits of distributed client-server computing and object-oriented software.

As a result, the next generation of software, produced under a CORBA implementation, should be reusable, simple to use and understand, and naturally compatible with any hardware platform. [2]

### CORBA (simplified)

CORBA incorporates the concept of using a broker, called the Object Request Broker (ORB)—as a sort of intermediary—to handle messages (called requests) that flow between clients and servers in the system. The broker has the ability to choose the server(s) that best fill the clients' requests and separates the



interface that the clients see from the implementation of the server. This means that it is possible to switch or modify servers—provided you do not modify the interface or the way it behaves—without changing clients. The ORB resides on the host between the data and the application layer. This is one level lower than the application layer, which is level 7 in the OSI model [1].

The ORB incorporates many aspects of object-oriented programming, for example, polymorphism, data encapsulation and data inheritance.

- Polymorphism means that different objects (with their associated data sets) are independent and reusable by different applications.
- Data encapsulation means that client applications know nothing about the data they accesses. As far as a client application knows, it simply requests objects through the ORB, and the object retrieves the requested data.
- Data inheritance means that if one interface was designed to interface with an ORB, then any object derived from that parent object will keep the parent object's interface.

The basis of all CORBA objects is called the Interface Definition Language (IDL). This is the most important part of the implementation of an application. The ORB is able to communicate an object's methods and parameters to any other CORBA object through the IDL interface. The interface rules are strictly enforced by CORBA and this ensures that each object, together with its interface, are tightly coupled and cohesive [3].

After writing and compiling IDL definitions for the interfaces, the ORB knows about the interfaces to the objects. The IDL information is stored in a dynamic listing called the interface repository. Because the ORB knows about other objects residing in different host systems, it can match the requested data object to its interface repository. The ORB then attempts to send a message to the object. If the data object or its server is not running, the ORB will obtain the reference for how and where to communicate with the object in the implementation repository or associated database. When the ORB receives a correct reference, it will attempt to communicate with that object by sending the original message. If the process fails or the ORB does not know the requested object, the ORB returns an appropriate error message to the calling application or object.

## CORBA's competitors

Microsoft decided to go its own way rather than participating in the OMG development of CORBA. Microsoft concentrated on its own OLE-based Component Object Model (COM) which is essentially

an ORB for OLE. Practical applications for OLE include editing graphics images inside a word processing document and embedding sound files into a database file. These tasks are also possible using CORBA.

The major difference between CORBA and COM is that CORBA's object model allows multiple inheritance, which allows for highly customised components. COM is also a single-machine ORB, compared with CORBA's network enabled ORBs [4]. However, Microsoft is moving towards distributing its OLE over networks through its Network OLE. Microsoft's distributed OLE components will be able to access other network-accessible OLE components as if they existed locally. The new version of Visual Basic 4.0 incorporates an early version of this Network OLE [5].

Microsoft's COMs and OMG's ORBs aren't the only players out there. There's also Sun Microsystems's Java programming language. As the most accessible of the three main players in the distributed object battle, Java has generated a great deal of interest and discussion in computing circles. Some people have gone so far as to say that Java could bring about Microsoft's demise [6]. Java code works in any environment where Java has been implemented, CORBA compliant applications are also platform independent, so that's not Java's point of differentiation. But the delivery system for Java is the Internet.

If the Java language evolves to the point where software components can be distributed securely across the Internet, and these applications can be used to "plug and play," producing larger, customised systems—component by component—then it's easy to understand why some people predict hard times for large software vendors, such as Microsoft.

You may come across an example of Java if you are using a 32-bit web browser, such as Netscape v2.0 or higher. Right now, the main use of Java code on the web is to enhance graphics images on web pages—producing animation and effects such as fading and scrolling. As a language, Java is a close relative of C++, but as an interpreted language it executes about ten times slower than native C++ [6]. However because Java is object based and platform independent it has become popular for building software components that can be sent and used anywhere via the Internet.

## The future of CORBA

You may have heard of or read about OpenDoc, a programming environment in which developers can create multi-platform applications. In an effort to fight off Microsoft and its distributed OLE, in March 1996 the OMG announced that it had adopted OpenDoc's distributed compound document-formatting facilities as part of its CORBA architecture [7].

That decision paved the way for applications with the ability to call OpenDoc components through CORBA 2.0-compliant ORBs. Now the OMG has a product to compete directly with OLE. However, no matter how good the OpenDoc standard is, the fact that OLE has become something of an industry standard, may make it difficult to steal market share back from OLE.

Apple has adopted OpenDoc to implement on its Macintosh computers and IBM plans to have OpenDoc out by the end of 1996. IBM shipped OS/2 and AIX versions of OpenDoc in 1995 [8]. This augurs well for the future of CORBA as the computing industry and consumers of distributed-object-based technology make their choices based on the backing of large companies, to which they will look for the support necessary to drive the technology. Because the OMG comprises some 500 members of well known computing companies there is no doubt about its backing.

CORBA technology, and its underlying object-oriented architecture, is well suited to deliver the means to seamless integration between distributed objects. As such it can provide for the development of many projects that require connecting applications across a network, for example, complex Object-Oriented Database Systems that store complex data structures with ease. These sorts of projects could only have been dreamt of a short time ago.

## References

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- [3] Randy Otte, Paul Patrick, Mark Roy, *Understanding CORBA: The Common Object Request Broker Architecture*, Prentice Hall, p2-2.
- [4] Michael A. Foody, *OLE and COM vs. CORBA*, *UNIX Review*, April 1996, v14:4 p43.
- [5] David S. Linthicum, *Consider the Component Object Model*, *PC Magazine*, March 26, 1996, v15:6 p10.
- [6] Robert Richardson, *Java picks up steam*, *LAN Magazine*, April 1996, v11:4 p79.
- [7] Martin Marshall, *OMG challenges Microsoft's OLE with OpenDoc's compound documents*, *Communications Week*, March 25 1996, 602 p12.
- [8] Frank Hayes, *OMG picks OpenDoc, puts users in quandary*, *CompterWorld*, March 25 1996, v30:13 p16.

□



# Special interest group meetings

**MELB  
PC  
USER GROUP**



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### Access (Database)

#### Ray Watson

(03) 9883 4382 AH  
Fax: (03) 9576 9591  
2nd Monday, 6.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Assembly & Other Languages

#### Felix Hofmann

*felix@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9523 5400 AH  
1st Thursday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Ballarat

#### Ken Smith

(053) 32 7851 BH & AH  
1st Thursday, 7.30 pm  
(except school holidays)  
Ballarat East Secondary  
College

### Basic

#### Andrew Callaway

(03) 9619 4067 BH  
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
Note change of week  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Bendigo

#### Russell Collins

(054) 39 3708  
2nd Wednesday, 7.30 pm  
Girton Grammar School  
(Computer Room)  
105 Mackenzie Street  
Bendigo (Vine Street entrance)

### C/C++ Programming

#### Ken Holmes

(03) 9583 1504 BH & AH  
4th Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Clarion

#### Alan King

(03) 9882 8044 BH  
4th Wednesday, 6.30 pm  
Suite 9, 96 Camberwell Road  
East Hawthorn  
(Through wire gate and up the  
stairs on the south-east side of  
Roseberry St)

### Computer Music

#### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

(03) 9562 1023 AH  
(brief calls please)  
Asst convener: Eric Best  
(03) 9646 6898 AH  
2nd Thursday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Communications

#### Philip Lew

(03) 9822 2998 BH  
(Brief calls please)  
2nd Wednesday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Daytime

#### Felix van Lier

*Felixvl@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9525 3962 BH & AH  
Asst convener: Brian Taylor  
2nd Thursday, 10.00 am  
Melb PC SIG Room

### East

#### Keith Lane

(03) 9762 6644 Anytime  
(03) 9761 1414 Fax  
*keithln@melbpc.org.au*  
Asst convener: Stewart Tanner  
(03) 9879 9776  
2nd Monday, 7.30 pm  
Lutheran Church Hall  
67 Rooks Road, Mitcham.

### Freeware and Shareware

#### Doug Westcott

(03) 9898 2765 AH  
*dougw@melbpc.org.au*  
Co-convener: Tony James  
3rd Tuesday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

The Blind Citizens Support Group meets at 7.45 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 1st Floor, 87 High Street, Prahran. For further details, please contact John Machin, on (03) 9569 1440 (BH).

Conveners: If you would like your e-mail address printed in this list, please send an e-mail message to: *editor@melbpc.org.au*

### Graphics

#### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

(03) 9562 1023 AH  
(brief calls please)  
Asst convener: Kevin Gorie  
3rd Monday, 7.45 pm  
We meet in the bungalow at  
the rear of Nadish Naoroji's  
home, 8 Park Crescent  
North Caulfield

### Hardware

#### Felix Hofmann

*felix@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9523 5400 AH  
3rd Wednesday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### New Users, Central

#### Graham Paul

(03) 9417 5315 AH  
3rd Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### New Users, East

#### Doug Brooke

(03) 9822 3458 BH & AH  
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
St Mark's Anglican Church,  
Cnr Canterbury & Burke Rds  
Camberwell

### OS/2

#### Andrew Keil

4th Wednesday, 6.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Quicken

#### Viv Martin

*martinv@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9551 4838 AH  
4th Thursday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Retired & Interested Persons

#### Ken Thomas

(03) 9803 6229 BH & AH  
4th Friday, 10.00 am  
(Note, not last Friday)  
Lutheran Church  
25 Cypress Avenue  
Glen Waverley

### Turbo Pascal

#### Ross Hall

(054) 28 6470 AH  
(03) 9699 4000 BH  
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### UNIX

Vacant, acting convener:

#### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

(03) 9562 1023 AH  
(brief calls please)  
3rd Thursday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Waffle

#### Vince Thornton

018 171 344 or  
**Andrew Callaway**  
(03) 9619 4067 BH  
"Eat-ins" held after main  
monthly meeting.

### Warragul

#### Mark Withers

*withers@dcscmp.org.au*  
*Mark.Withers@garfield.*  
*apana.org.au*  
(056) 25 4165 (7-9 pm)  
1st Friday, 7.30 pm  
Function Room  
Warragul Leisure Centre  
21 Burke Street, Warragul

### Windows

#### Mikhail Bortolotto

(03) 9888 2360 AH  
1st Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Word Processing/DTP

#### Loraine Briggs

(03) 9532 8295 AH  
014 693 882  
2nd Friday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room



# SIG meeting reports

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

coordinated by Keith Beresford



### Basic/Turbo Pascal

Ross Hall

At the August meeting of the combined Basic/Turbo Pascal sig we covered the usual diverse range of subjects pertaining to computers and programming. Andrew brought along a Microsoft Developer Network Development Library CD, so a fair amount of time was taken searching for particular items and browsing the CD. There is a great depth of information in this product and anyone programming professionally would probably find it extremely useful.

Included in our discussions were

- C code for font manipulation
- Playing .WAV files using a server program. You can have a lot of fun with the demos. This one included a number of sound bites with a very English chap saying some very Monty Python-type things. Not what you expect from Microsoft.
- Windows NT configuring
- Sample code for Visual Basic, C, C++ and yes, even a little bit of Pascal (on how to interface C++ routines to Delphi)

Other topic discussed at the meeting included:

- Drivespace in a slave hard drive
  - Delphi 2 clocks
  - Win 95 boot sector overwriting
- The meeting closed at about 11.00 pm. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8 October 1996. Hope to see you there.

### Bendigo

Peter Ward

At the August meeting Michael Job, an accountant from Prompt Business Centre, spoke to us about his background in banking and the introduction and progress of computers in banking. Accounting software battles—MYOB vs Quick Books and Best Books vs Quicken—provided some interesting discussion points, with Michael wisely refusing to take sides. His recommendation? Use the software that best suits your needs. They all do a good job.

Our guest speaker in September was Tony Cox. Tony, a computer consultant from the Harvey Norman store, spoke on the philosophy of a large retailer marketing hardware and software.

### Coming up

October will be our biggest meeting for the year. We will learn about the popular subject of genealogy with Rita Hull from AIGS. If you are interested in

genealogy, you are guaranteed an interesting evening. Bring your questions and problems, you're sure to find someone with the answers.

In November, the subject is multimedia, and our speaker will be Peter Wiseman from Media Australia.

**Don't forget, Christmas.** We invite all members in the Bendigo region to join us in December for our annual Christmas Dinner meeting at the Foundry Arms Hotel. A good time will be had by all, with good food and plenty of computer talk, not to mention the occasional drink. Please book with any of the executive.

### 1997

In January the Bendigo SIG will start the year with a meeting dedicated to the Internet. Our speaker will be Brian Gerry from HiTech (a local service provider). Bendigo members who are not away on holidays and who want to know what the Internet is all about should mark our January meeting in their diaries now.

Please come and join us.

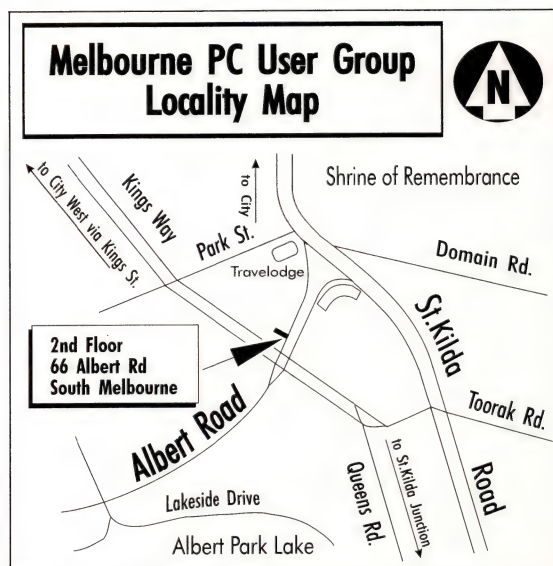
The facilities at Girton College allow us to have supper. So come along. Enjoy the speakers and the banter. Then have a cuppa. Remember to enter Girton from Vine street, Reece Plumbing is on the corner of Vine and High streets.

## Meetings Calendar

(Check with SIG Convener when a SIG meeting falls on a Public or School Holiday)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First	Windows ‡		<b>Main Monthly Meeting</b> Waffle	Assembly & Other Languages ‡ Ballarat	Warragul
Second	East Access (Database) ‡	Committee ‡ Basic/Turbo Pascal ‡ New Users, East	Bendigo Communications ‡	Computer Music ‡ Daytime ‡	Word Processing/ DTP ‡
Third	Graphics New Users, Central ‡	Freeware and Shareware ‡	Hardware ‡	UNIX ‡	
Fourth	C/C++ Programming ‡		Clarion OS/2 ‡	Quicken ‡	Retired and Interested Persons

‡ These meetings are at Melb PC — see the map for location details.



Many SIGs meet at Melb PC's premises, on the second floor at 66 Albert Road, South Melbourne.



## Daytime

### Felix van Lier

At the last meeting Tom Coleman spoke to us on Hardware. He started out by showing us the insides of a computer. Then he discussed how each part worked and gave brief descriptions of the kinds of troubles that a failing part might display.

He handed around computer parts. There was even a hard disk with the cover off. Just handling the parts and seeing them close up removed a lot of the mystique that awes us.

We were impressed when he assembled, in a few seconds, some of the bits, and pieces of the parts we had been handling and turned them into a working computer. No case just a jumble of connected parts but still a working computer. It shows that they are not so mysterious after all.

Tom used demonstrations and gave personal anecdotes to make his points. There were plenty of questions. Many of the questions were about "What do you do when it fails." He gave brief answers at the time but will be making a more comprehensive answer on 14 November when he will again address our group on the subject of "Making a Panic Disk." otherwise known as "How to avoid having to slash your wrists."

Thank you Tom, on the behalf of the Daytime sig members.

**October meeting:** Windows 3.11 and Windows 95.

**November meeting:** Tom Coleman will speak on the subject of Backing Up and disaster recovery, essential information to prepare for the worst.

## East

### Keith Lane

The August talk on Windows 95 turned out to be very well attended. I expected about 30, in the event there were 50 and some of us were sitting on table edges. We have solved the seating problem—the church has shown us where the extra seating is kept. You'll have the detailed report on the August 25 Workshop sig next issue of *PC Update*. In the meantime, there were at least ten who came along and the next Workshop, date to be decided, promises to have a bigger attendance again. Steve Thiel who is our youngest member is very pleased with the Melb PC Internet service. He's talked to some of his school friends who look like not only joining him on the service but also forming a young persons' sig. If any of you are still at school, or have sons and daughters at school, have them ring Steve on (03) 9874 2351. He is very keen to get a sig going and he'll also tell you how much quicker our Internet service is than the usual school facility. The

September meeting is just after *PC Update* goes to press. There will be ten speakers all from within the group ...

- Stewart Tanner on Access
- Margaret Brown on HP Printer Service
- Ken Spiken on Windows 95
- Bob McLean on Powerpoint
- Ed Farrell on the Green Guide
- Ron Harper on Installing a new system
- Ken Dempster on using a Modem to access a Library
- John Cullen on Excel
- John Dusink on Basic Programming
- Stewart Bedford on Web pages

Some of these speakers have agreed to treat their ten minutes as an introduction and will expand their subject into a full meeting when we can arrange a date. At the last meeting we issued all attendees at their request with the list of people who had attended meetings since we started to meet in Mitcham. We will issue this list, updated, from time to time so members can contact each other. The other unanimous request from members was that we should all wear name tags. Hohnathon Higbed suggested we should have a prize for the most decorative, I'll let the September meeting decide if they want to have such a competition. I am pleased that as well as showing their support by coming to meetings, lots of people have commented on the atmosphere at our meetings and how friendly and pleasant they find the crowd. So, if you are thinking of coming to our meetings, just come. You will feel very welcome and we will all attempt to solve any problem you might have.

## Retired & Interested Persons

### Bill Cooney

What a wealth of knowledge and expertise is assembled at our gatherings and each month it seems that further such treasures are added as our membership grows. Two second-time attenders at the August meeting gave the customary outline of their interests, one is a retired accountant now making a study of animal and plant distribution and another told of his employment in the production of educational films. Peter, one of the hearing-impaired group who were again present (with two "signers"), was the chief maintenance mechanic for one of the country's leading engineering and transport companies, before his retirement. If we could only bottle some of their experience and knowledge, hey? We were given a very interesting rundown by Major Keary, on developments with Telstra's rumoured plans to time data calls and how that will be managed. That might yet prove to be a necessity as I read recently that an American

woman died because an ambulance could not be called as the result of data calls jamming the phone network in that district. Maybe they should have called for assistance via the net!

Jim McLeod, who was our guest presenter at the same meeting spoke about Batch files to an interested audience of about 115, thus laying the groundwork for the greater absorption of Michael's article in *PC Update*. Jim also has a good grasp of his subject and had all his information on display, with the help of the projection setup. Thanks Jim, well done. Heartening signs that DOS is not yet dead and there is still recognition of us "dinosaurs."

Alan McKenzie will fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge of Desktop Publishing next month, so if you are looking to further your knowledge on some of the programs in that field, just turn up at the above address. You, too, will be made very welcome.

## Warragul

### Mark Withers

The September meeting went off well. We welcomed seven new members and hope they enjoy your computing. We covered the basics of Excel and ran out of time to cover anything else. I have pulled back from running and organising meetings and am still looking for someone to lead the Group. There is a small group who handle much of the admin needs without whom the meetings would not run as well as they do. Thank you to each of you for your assistance during my time as convenor. If there is anyone who is willing to talk to the local suppliers and organise the meetings now is the time to step forward.

Next meeting's topic is the local BBS and will be presented by Russell. We hope to show the BBS from both sides and give people assistance with the full use of BBS systems. The December meeting will be new products and a pizza night. November is yet to be finalised.

We are to run a weekend workshop on October 19th. On this Saturday we will start at 10.00 am and run through to about 3.30 PM. The venue is yet to be set. Watch the BBS, Warragul Gazette or contact me in the week prior to the workshop. The aim of the workshop is for members to bring their machines and work through any problems they have or any areas they want to learn more about. Members helping members is one of the main aims of the club.

My contact details are on page 40 or leave a message in the main message area on either the local or Melb PC BBS ☐



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***Tell us anything else you would  
like to see covered — email [stanj@melbpc.org.au](mailto:stanj@melbpc.org.au)  
and we'll try to include it on the day.***

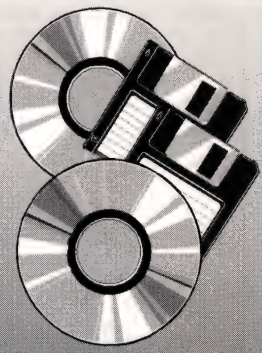
**Convenor: Stan Johnstone  
[stanj@melbpc.org.au](mailto:stanj@melbpc.org.au)**



# Shareware/Freeware library update

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Glenn Webster



## Updates

### Melb 2561

### QuickView v1.03A

QuickView is a fast, DOS-based, multimedia viewer. It can be used to view AVI, BMP, CEL, FLC, FLI, GIF, ICO, PCX, PIC and TGA files. VOC and WAV files can be played through the PC speaker or a Sound Blaster compatible sound card. QuickView auto-detects many graphics cards and uses VESA by default. It can view images larger than the available video hardware would allow by storing only those pixels in the main memory that are outside the visible part of the image. This leads to low memory requirements. Scrolling is not possible for pictures with more than 8 colour bits. QuickView will run under Windows 3.1 and 95 in a DOS shell but the PC Speaker sound will not work in a DOS shell. This version provides codecs for Creative Labs audio, AVI YUUV video and faster AVI decompression. Requires DOS 3.0 or better with at least an 80286 processor and a VGA video card. An 80386 is required for viewing AVI files. A Sound Blaster or compatible sound card is supported, but not a mouse. Regn is DM35 or US\$25.

### Melb 2563

### Complete Program Deleter for Windows v2.4

Complete Program Deleter is designed to rid your hard disk of programs that you no longer want. It must be run before installing a program on your hard disk, then run again after the installation has been completed. Any time after that, CPD will be able to totally erase the program from your hard disk. It will erase all files added to your hard disk during installation, including invisible or write-protected files, regardless of where they were placed on the hard disk (such as WINDOWS\SYSTEM or the root directory). It will delete subdirectories added to your disk during the installation. It will reverse all changes made in your AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS,

WIN.INI, and SYSTEM.INI files during the installation process. This program is great for those who like to experiment with shareware, since they add many programs to their hard disk and then remove them if they do not like the programs. This version caters for ever-increasing hard disk sizes and it provides more intelligent (and more accurate) reconstruction of modified AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI files. Requires an IBM PC or compatible, 1 MB of RAM and a hard disk drive. Regn is US\$15.

### Melb 8205

### Wordware 95

Wordware is a collection of 60 macros and templates for MS Word for Windows. It provides facilities for managing files, projects, business contacts and people, all inside Word for Windows. It is easy to use and to operate. It has a Personal Information Manager and a fully-functional CD Player. Many utilities, such as a Smart Quote Slayer, an Auto Correct Toggler and a Smart Paste Toggler, have been included to make common tasks even quicker. The Multimedia Player will play all multimedia files. It even has a quick command line, Windows Exit/Restart/Reboot, Lock Word (for privacy), Close All and Exit, and Print Summary Information. You can use WinFax Macros that take full advantage of WinFax Pro. Wordware 95 supports a smart document interface. This version has been updated to support MS Windows 95 with MS Word for Windows 7.0. It also includes new macros. This package will not work with MS Windows 3.x. It requires 1.5 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$40.

### Melb 8282 Windows Commander v2.11

Windows Commander is a file manager for Windows that is similar to the Windows file manager WINFILE.EXE. However, Windows Commander uses a different approach, as it has two fixed windows that display the drive information about files, such as date, time, attributes, size, name, etc, and by using

the speed bar that is mounted at the top of the screen, you can launch any Windows-based program to view/edit files, or format disks. Windows Commander supports all of the major archiver programs, and treats the archived files like sub-directories, enabling you to copy and delete files from within archives easily, without any messy command lines to worry about. This update includes long filename support for Windows 95 and NT, a configurable button bar, easy addition, deletion and modification of archive files, an enhanced search function with the ability to search for text inside files, including archives. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or later. Regn is US\$25.

### Melb 8518

### Vulcan Notes v1.13

Vulcan Notes (Yellow Sticky Notes for Windows) brings you one step closer to the paperless office/home. It is very fast, handy and simple to use. You can generate up to 100 virtual "sticky notes" on your screen. Each note can include an alarm with repeat settings. Notes open up to a large size, making them useful as a clipboard enhancement, or to store odd pieces of information. A find/replace facility is included. Vulcan Notes is very fast, handy and simple to use. It is the perfect reminding tool that will increase your productivity. This version has a Save All feature and shows only selected notes on startup. It requires an 80386 or better processor, MS Windows 3.1 or later, Extended or Expanded RAM and 600 KB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$20.

### Melb 8364

### RealAudio Player for Windows 3.1 v2.00

### Melb 8592

### RealAudio Player for Windows 95/NT v2.00

The RealAudio Player provides real time sound over the Internet. Once you have installed the RealAudio Player, it will play automatically when you select any RealAudio clip on a World Wide Web



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page. You do not need to load the RealAudio player first. The RealAudio Player only plays RealAudio files. It does not play .AU or .wav files. This version includes an enhanced sound engine. RealAudio Player requires an 80486SX-33 or faster processor, 8 MB of RAM, 2 MB of hard disk space, MS Windows 3.1 or later, a sound card that is supported by Windows, Trumpet Winsock (16-bit for Windows 3.1, 32-bit for Windows 95/NT) and an Internet connection with a 14.4 Kbps or faster modem. For 28.8 Kbps RealAudio files, an 80486DX-66 or faster processor and a 28.8 kbps or faster Internet connection is required.

## New disks

### Melb 2575 Survey Power Survey Analysis v3.00

Survey Power creates, analyses, and prints the results of surveys and questionnaires. Single and multiple choice, text entry, weighting, and numerical entry questions are supported. It supports complete, demographic, correlation, numeric, and text frequency analyses of the responses. Any analysis can be displayed, printed or saved as an ASCII or Lotus file. It requires 512 KB of RAM. Regn is US\$60.

## Members' Top Choice Shareware

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in *PC Update* for up-to-date listings of other disks—use the lower part of this order form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Format	Qty	Amount
Shareware Catalogue & New Member Disk	0000	3.5 / 5.25		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235	3.5 / 5.25		
List	1490	3.5 / 5.25		
Windows 3.1 Screen Savers	2326	3.5 / 5.25		
Accu Music System	2455	3.5 / 5.25		
The Pianist for Windows	2459	3.5 / 5.25		
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter II	8012 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Graphics Workshop	8015 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee Antivirus Suite for DOS	8018 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee Antivirus Suite for Windows 3.x	8215 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee Antivirus Suite for Windows 95	8308 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Telix	8062 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110/11/12 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129/30 (HD)	3.5 only		
Growit	8157 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
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### Melb 2576 Windows Encryption Toolkit v2.00

Windows Encryption Toolkit provides royalty-free 16- and 32-bit secure encryption DLLs for Win31/95/NT. It enables developers and corporate users to build data security into their products using royalty free encryption DLLs. This shareware version provides XOR, transposition, and substitution data encryption methods. (A Pro version is available for the USA and Canada and provides both proprietary and Data Encryption Standard DLLs). The source code is also available. The reference manual has been provided as a .HLP file with the shareware version. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or later. Regn is US\$39 (Standard Edition).

### Melb 2577 PixView v2.0

PixView is a viewer for GIF and JPEG files. Using PixView, while in the graphics screen, you can change (on the fly) the display resolution, pan the image across the screen (even using the mouse), and shrink the image to the actual screen size. Many tools for slide shows and dithering are also included. Requires 450 KB of RAM, a VGA or better video card and monitor and a mouse. Regn is US\$20.

### Melb 2578 Netscape Cache Explorer v1.10

The Netscape Cache Explorer offers easy offline access to all Web pages that have been cached by Netscape Navigator. It contains full text search and the ability to extract entire document trees. Organising functions, such as intelligent domain sorting, hiding and deleting documents, helps you to keep track of important things in the browser cache. Requires Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0 and Netscape Navigator 2.0 (32-bit). Regn is US\$20.

### Melb 2579 DOS Menu System

This is a very simple menu and security system for all versions of DOS. The package includes DOS Menu, a Help System and a User Guide. It has a Lotus 1-2-3 style menu system with password protection, on-line help and mouse support. The DOS Menu is not a TSR and frees all memory. It has a Screen Blanker, supports 10,000 menu entries, macros and built-in menu action functions. Requires an 80286 processor.

### Melb 2580 PC Desk v5.5

This versatile PC/AT DOS program generates Monthly Calendars and a Weekly Planner (to which you can add memo notes), and generates Yearly Calendars. The program also includes an Address Book data base, a DOS File Manager Utility, an ASCII Text Editor and an Analog Clock. On-line instructions are provided in the program. Mouse and printer support is included. The program requires an IBM compatible computer with an EGA or VGA colour monitor. Regn is US\$15.00



**Melb 8593****Bank Investor Home Accounting v3.1**

Bank Investor automates the use of your cheque accounts. It maintains a record of all transactions, reconciles your accounts against the bank's statement, and can even provide cheque printing, if desired. It provides an "unpaid bills/deposits" function to store yearly, monthly and one-time transactions and it will remind you when they become due. The overdraft protection facility reminds you when the account balance falls below a stated limit. You can set up to 10 different accounts; each may contain up to 6 budget categories for income and up to 28 expense categories, to present an exact review of your income and expenditures over a selected time period. Budget reports can show the amount spent or received in any user-defined budget area over any desired time period. An International Edition (with cheque printing in English, German, French, Spanish or Italian) is available also. Bank Investor requires an 80386 or better processor, DOS 3.1/Windows 3.1 or later, 1.5 MB of hard disk space, and a VGA monitor (1024 x 768 resolution preferred). Regn is US\$25 (Standard Edition) and US\$35 (International Edition).

**Melb 8594 Owl Basic Bookkeeping v4.1 (for Windows)**

Basic Bookkeeping provides organised and accurate accounting using the "single-entry" bookkeeping method. This method is easy to use and is especially suited to small businesses and individuals. BBK can handle up to 1000 different expense types and supports both calendar and fiscal year accounting. Its accounting folders allow independent bookkeeping for multiple businesses or multiple business elements within the same business. You don't need to be an accountant to use this program. By spending just a few minutes a week you can dramatically reduce your accounting costs. Give your accountant comprehensive reports that will save his/her time and your money, instead of a shoe box full of receipts. Owl Basic Bookkeeping requires MS Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MB of RAM

and 1.5 MB of hard disk space. Registration is US\$39 for the first computer and US\$15 for each additional computer.

**Melb 8595 EASI-PLAN Lite v3.30**

EASI-PLAN Lite is a powerful, but easy-to-use software package which enables new and mid-size businesses to prepare fully-integrated and comprehensive, 3-year financial projections for business plans and budgets, raising finance, strategic planning, forecasting, appraisals, etc. It can also be used by professional advisers, consultants, training organisations and financial institutions. EASI-PLAN Lite is aimed at businesses with annual sales in the range 250k to 2m pounds/dollars, who are engaged in manufacturing, distribution or services. Its reports are pre-formatted to suit either sole traders or limited companies. EASI-PLAN incorporates facilities for graphing key results, undertaking "what-if" analysis, for preparing 'first-cut' three-year projections, and other financial planning reports. EASI-PLAN is very suitable for users with limited or no prior experience of computers or financial planning as well as for more experienced users who do not wish to go to the trouble, or waste valuable time, developing their own planning system on a spreadsheet. It is menu-driven with extensive on-line, context-sensitive help. The layout of its reports and accounts are based on UK conventions. Requires an 8086/8088 or later processor, DOS 3.3 and 850 KB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$120 (or 75.00 Pounds Sterling).

**Melb 8596 Pers-plan: Personal & Household Cashflow Planner v3.30**

Pers-Plan is a program designed for personal cash planning and budgeting. Use it to prepare a personal budget and cashflow projections for twelve months ahead. It is very friendly and menu-driven with extensive "on-line" context-sensitive help and "drill-down" features. Pers-Plan produces numerous reports and graphs with analyses of income and expenditure and details of projected bank and credit card balances. It handles any currency, in-

come tax (any regime), interest calculations, salary deductions, expenditure under many headings, etc. For easy updating of projections, it incorporates facilities for printing graphs, "rolling forward" assumptions and projections one month at a time. It requires DOS 3.3 or later, 640 KB of RAM, and 740 KB of free hard disk space. Regn is 29.00 Pounds Sterling.

**Melb 8597 DATASHOW PRO v1.4A (for DOS)**

DATASHOW PRO is a shareware multimedia program in which you can produce professional-looking slide shows, presentations, demonstrations, tutorials and teaching programs. It operates in both text and graphic modes. It has an easy-to-use integrated environment with Script, Drawing, Slide, Animation, Print and Chart Design facilities. It supports PCX, GIF and FFI graphics files and plays WAV and VOC sounds via the PC Speaker or an Adlib/Soundblaster sound card. On-line help and a text-based manual are included. Datashow Pro requires an 80286 or better processor, DOS 2.0, 512 KB RAM, 2 MB of hard disk space, CGA or better graphics and a mouse. DATASHOW PRO can also be run as a DOS session under both Windows 3.x and OS/2 2.x. Regn is US\$40.

**Melb 8598 PC Publisher**

PC Publisher is an Electronic Publishing System, used to create ANSI and ASCII Catalogs, Magazines, Books, Stand-Alone Text Files, ANSI Art and Animation Files. The program includes customisable pop-up and pull-down menus, text compression, small viewers and a TOC compatible ANSI reader. PC Publisher is simple and easy to use. It requires an 80286 or faster processor and DOS 3.0 or later.

**Melb 8599 The Independent JPEG Group's JPEG Software v6A**

This distribution contains MS-DOS executable copies of Version 6A of the Independent JPEG Group's free JPEG software. It is designed to be used with JPEG graphics files, and to be used in programs for JPEG

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routes. This version of the software is compiled in 32-bit mode, so it will run only on PCs with 80386 or later processors. It also requires 1 MB of Expanded RAM.

### **Melb 8600/8601** **Eudora Lite v1.5.4 (2 Disk Set)**

Eudora Lite is an Internet mail program for use with SLIP/PPP internet accounts. It is used to check for internet mail on SMTP mail servers with your POP3 account. This package features both the 16-bit and 32-bit versions of Eudora Lite for Windows 3.1 and Windows NT/Windows 95. This is the freeware version of Eudora for Windows. The commercial version is Eudora Pro and is available from Qualcomm. The user manual is available from Qualcomm's homepage and is in Word for Windows 2.0 format. Requires MS Windows 3.1/95/NT, a POP3 mail account, a mouse, 2 MB of free hard disk space and a 9600 bps or faster modem, or direct TCP/IP network connection.

### **Melb 8602** **Fund Manager for Windows 3.X** **Melb 8603** **Fund Manager for Windows 95**

Fund Manager is a portfolio management application designed to help individual investors to monitor and analyse their investments using a wide variety of easy-to-use graphs and reports. Fund manager accepts price, investment and distribution information as input for its calculations. Prices may be entered manually, imported from online services, or imported from Quicken. An overview, as well as all the documentation for Fund Manager, is available via on-line help from inside the applica-

tion. To get a quick feel for the capabilities of Fund Manager, simply click on any of the sample icons created by the installation program. Fund Manager requires either MS Windows 3.x or MS Windows 95, an 80386 processor and a mouse. Regn is US\$20.

### **Melb 8604 Catdisk for Windows v1.01**

Catdisk for Windows is a disk cataloguing system for both Windows 3.x and Windows 95. You can track and manage the files on any DOS supported disks (floppy, hard, CD-ROM, removable hard, IOMEGA ZIP, etc.). Catdisk for Windows is powerful, fast and easy to use. You can add file categories, multi-line file comments to files and archives (ARJ, ZIP, etc.). Comments from FILE\_ID.DIZ files are supported also. Bonus utilities for moving files to floppies, eliminating duplicate files, general file cleanup and retrieval are also included. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or MS Windows 95 or later, 4 MB of RAM and 2 MB of free hard drive space. Regn is A\$55.

### **Melb 8605** **Kazstamp for Windows 95 v6.0**

You can use Kazstamp to address envelopes using your printer. It enables you to give envelopes the look you want by using different fonts, sizes, graphics and colours. It even prints the bar code that the post office uses to deliver your letter. Requires MS Windows 95, a mouse and either a laser printer or an inkjet printer.

### **Melb 8606** **My Personal Diary for Windows 95 v5.5**

This diary program helps anyone and everyone to keep a private diary on a computer. The multiple

user feature means that many users can share the program on a single computer but still keep independent diaries. All entries are stored in encrypted files and password protected to ensure privacy. Some other features of this program are a spelling checker, full support for text and paragraph formatting, margins, header, footer, fonts, styles and colours, text search (through your entire diary), a built-in address book and to-do list with reminder system and complete online help. My Personal Diary is an excellent tool for keeping track of day to day activities and recording the important events in your life. It requires MS Windows 95. Regn is US\$25.

### **Melb 8607 Scott Craig's Connect Time Monitor for Windows 95**

Scott Craig's Connect Time Monitor for Windows 95 is a useful utility to help you to keep track of your connection times to various services. The program enables timing of multiple services, automatic start, and many other features. It requires MS Windows 95, a modem and a mouse.

### **Melb 8608** **The Searchable Notepad (Win95/NT)**

This Notepad is intended to be run in the background of Windows 95/NT as a place for you to write yourself quick notes. If you have a desk covered in Internet addresses, phone numbers and scraps of paper this program may be just what you need. It was written to use a minimum of memory and therefore it has only the most basic of features. However, it is ideal for writing quick notes. Each notebook entry is limited to about 1024 characters.

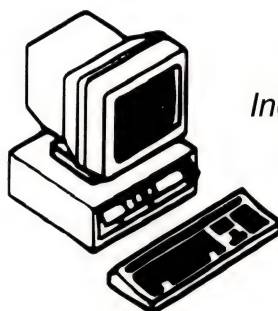
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**Melb 8609****BitMapZ v2.30**

BitMapZ for Windows is a bit-map slide show for Windows, which is easy to setup and use. It provides an infinite number of slide shows with up to 32,000 slides per show. You can determine the background, duration of each slide, priority of each slide and you can even add clear text titles to each slide. Requires Windows 3.1 or later, an 80386 or faster processor, 330 KB of RAM and 1 MB of free hard drive space. Regn is US\$30.

**Melb 8610****Clipmate v4.01**

ClipMate is a Windows 95 clipboard enhancement program. It is a very powerful program, with three primary Windows — Main, Magnify and Picker, which enable you to select, view and work with your data. User friendly features include a 3D display, tabbed dialogues, user-defined collections of screen captures, designed to keep the most used files easily accessible, hot keys and right mouse button support. Requires Windows 95+ and a mouse. Regn US\$35.

**Melb 8611****EDGE Diagrammer v1.05**

EDGE Diagrammer is a powerful, feature-rich flowcharting and diagramming tool. It enables you to create custom shapes and arrows, and to create your own styles (similar to paragraph styles in word processors). You can combine your styles into templates of your own. We have included some templates such as our flowcharting template. EDGE Diagrammer comes with over 100 predefined shapes and arrows, but it also includes a built-in macro language for creating your own. You can also import graphics to use in your diagrams. You can copy your diagrams into other programs, such as Word for Windows. The program also contains full pan/zoom, snap grid, and full on-screen editing. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or later, and 80386 or faster processor, 3 MB of hard drive space, 4 MB of RAM, a mouse and a VGA or better video card and monitor. Regn is US\$90.

**Melb 8612****Icoholics Anonymous—  
Second Collection**

This disk contains a collection of 1000 icons from a confessed icoholic. Johan Spee (of The Netherlands) has collected icons, patched icons, and even created his own icons for this collection. He is not requesting a registration fee for using any of these icons, but he would like you to send him a postcard if you find any of the icons useful or interesting.

**Melb 8613****Icon Collector v2.00**

Icon Collector is a Windows application designed to bundle icons into Dynamic Links Libraries. It can also generate icons from any Windows Metafiles and Bitmap graphics files. Icons can also be edited and drawn using the editor supplied. If you are writing programs, Icons files can be inserted directly into your executable and Dynamic Link Libraries. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MB of RAM and a mouse. Regn is US\$33.

**Melb 8614****Image Master Plus  
Screen Saver and Image Viewer v2.7**

You can use Image Master Plus to create a personal screen-saver and image viewer. This application has been tailored for amateur and professional photographers, artists, and illustrators. Image Master can produce an attractive slide show for promoting or advertising a company's products or services. You can use any or all of the 15 slide shows for your pictures. Registered users can access most picture formats. It requires an 80386 processor, MS Windows 3.x or later and a mouse. Regn is US\$20.

**Melb 8615****Jasc Media Center v2.02**

Jasc Media Center is designed to be your command center for multimedia file management and manipulation. It consists of all the necessary commands to manage your multimedia files. Features include the ability to organise your multimedia files into albums via thumbnails, to arrange the album using drag and drop or one of many sort options, to catalog the multimedia files using keywords and comments for future searches. Scan for all the multimedia files on your system to hunt down those unneeded, space wasting files. View your images full screen or in a configurable slide show. You can also play your WAVs, MIDs, AVIs and FLC/FLIs individually or with the configurable slide show. You may also associate a WAV file with images in the slide show, or play an audio CD in the background. Jasc Media Center can be configured to start your favorite media file editors, even one for each file extension. You can print your entire album as a catalog or individual images. The program supports over 35 different file formats. Multimedia files of an album may come from different directories and different drives. Special support for removable disks and CD Roms allows you to track your files and have Jasc Media Center tell you which disk you need. Requires Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MB of RAM and a VGA video card and monitor.

**Melb 8616/8617****(2-disk set)****Paint Shop Pro (32-bit) v3.12**

Paint Shop Pro is the only Photo Retouching, Painting, Image Format Conversion, and Screen Capturing program you will need. Paint Shop Pro supports 8 different brushes including pen, pencil, marker, crayon, chalk, charcoal, airbrush, and paintbrush to edit an existing image, or to create your own. A user defined brush allows you to combine elements of any of the other brushes to create a unique effect, while the fill tool allows easy filling of large areas. Photo Retouching on existing images is performed with the clone brush for easy duplication of image areas, or with the magic wand for quick selection of similar areas for manipulation. Paint Shop Pro enables you to perform flip, mirror, rotate, and crop operations, plus the ability to add borders and frames, or to resize and to resample your image. Paint Shop Pro ships with 20 standard image filters and any user definable filters that you create. Also included are 12 image deformations, including skew and circle. With Paint Shop Pro, you can alter the hue, saturation, lightness and RGB levels of any image. Adjustments to brightness and contrast and changes to highlight, shadow, and midtone can also be made. It requires MS Windows 95/NT, 8 MB of RAM, a VGA or better video card and monitor and a mouse. Regn is A\$110.

**Melb 8618 PCX2CCS for Windows v1.4**

PCX2CCS for Windows takes a PCX image and creates a Counted Cross Stitch Chart. It has 256 different symbols, and prints colour and/or black and white charts, depending on the printer. It enables pasting of bitmaps from other Windows applications and from within PCX2CCS. PCX2CCS has size and scaling capabilities, as well as a library utility. There are 64 DMC colours in this version, with the registered version containing 390 DMC colours. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or later, an 80386 or faster processor, 500 KB of hard disk space and 300 KB of RAM. Regn is US\$40.

**Melb 8619/8620****(2-disk set)****Viewer 95**

Viewer 95 is a file viewer for Windows 95, and is a useful tool for quickly viewing many different file

types including BMP, WMF, ICO, CUR, and any available printer fonts. The registered version adds additional file type viewing capability. Requires Windows 95 or later, 4 MB of RAM, a Windows supported printer and corresponding driver and a mouse.

**Melb 8621****Designer Envelopes and  
Letterhead Stationery v2.1D**

You can use Designer Envelopes to create envelopes and letterhead stationery using a drag and drop interface. You can add lines, pictures, text and rectangles to your layouts. Use all of your Windows fonts and bitmaps! Designer Envelopes has links to Windows Paintbrush to enable you to create and edit images. The links to Windows Cardfile can be used for creating and importing text and addresses into your layouts which can be scaled to fit on many envelope sizes. You can use colour or black and white printers. Requires an 80386 processor, Windows 3.1 (or better), and a mouse. Regn is US\$20.

**Melb 8622****Labels, Cards and More v1.0**

Create labels, cards, envelopes, and more, easily, with the use of any printer. You can custom and use layouts, boxes, lines, circles, clipart and text in any size, colour, style and rotation. There are "special" objects to link to data files for mailing lists, counters, quick addressing and personal information. Requires MS Windows 95, a printer and a mouse.

**Melb 8623****Shareware Address Book Ver 4.2**

ShareWare Address Book stores up to 1000 names, addresses and phone numbers. This program enables you to search for a specific address record by name or by company, then insert the details directly into your document. You can view a list by name or by company, import and export data from or to other programs, create reports (both normal reports and wide reports) for mail merge. Some templates have been included for creating letters. Requires MS Windows 3.1 or later and Winword 6.0. Regn is US\$17. □

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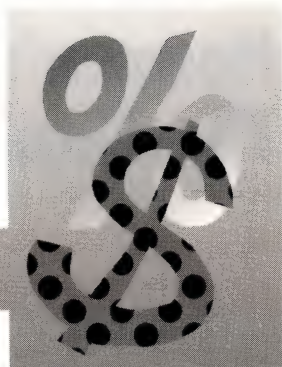
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# Heaven's Dawn— The Final Hope

## GAME REVIEW



Bob Burt

**H**ere we have a stylish *point and click* graphic adventure game, replete with a multitude of scenes, a mixture of buildings, rooms and open-air environments ranging from forests to mazes in country gardens. The methodology will be familiar to avid players of such games

—hints and clues abound in virtually every screen—you can pick up and read letters left on dressing tables, hunt for keys to unlock doors and store in your inventory most items that are given a name when your mouse cursor passes over them.

### The story

The introduction provides the background story in grandiose fashion. In an unknown dimension, a God creates five “elementals”—Heaven, Earth, Water, Feelings and Sensibilities and gives them awareness and figures. Together, they create an environment that includes human beings. Each “elemental” has been responsible for creating particular segments of this dimension. Thus Heaven creates the sun, moon and stars, Earth creates rock, grass, flowers and trees, Water creates wind, cloud, rain and the oceans, while Feelings creates all living things. Sensibilities creates wisdom and words. With words, civilisation advances, but brings with it war, hunger and destruction. The God decides to stop these devastations before they destroy the whole of the creation. So He orders the five to cast a powerful curse to take back the knowledge of words and remove civilisation.

Feelings however, is unwilling to destroy the people living in the *Cursed Land* and she secretly choses a messenger called Jasper from another

**check everything**

**...and don't**

**ignore the few**

**people you meet**

dimension to break the “curse of time”.

One rather extraordinary thing about this adventure is that the package for Heaven's Dawn describes an entirely different introduction. It talks about an artist called Jeremy (not Jasper) who visits New York and is told the story of the Cursed Land by an old man on the sidewalk. Jeremy picks up a necklace dropped by the old man and he's whisked away to the Cursed Land to unravel the threads of the curse.

While the New York scene does not appear in the program, and there is no mention of a necklace in either the screen introduction or the user manual, an “artist” flavour runs through the program. An artist's work bag appears in the bottom section of all action screens. Clicking on it brings up an artist's palette on which appears menu choices for saving, loading

### Info Box

#### Heaven's Dawn—The Final Hope

#### Minimum system requirements

- 386/SX or better
- 4 MB RAM
- VGA display
- Mouse pointer
- CD-ROM drive
- Hard disk with at least 4 MB free space
- Sound card—Sound Blaster and compatibles/AdLib/GUS/PAS/Turtle Beech/General MIDI

#### Availability and cost

Distributed by  
Manacomm Pty Ltd  
PO Box 1297  
Milton QLD 4064  
Ph: (07) 3870 4900  
Fax: (07) 3870 9440  
RRP: \$69.95

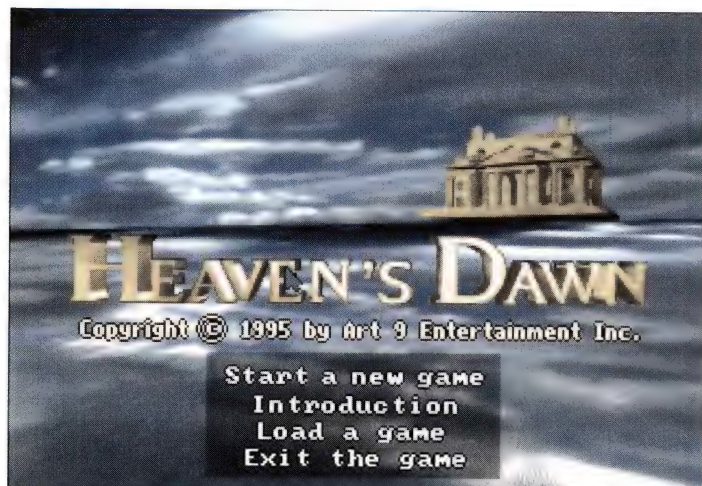


Figure 1. Opening menu.



Figure 2. The first challenge.





Figure 3. Searching for another clue.



Figure 4. Another puzzle.

and exiting games. Configuration for the game is changed from a screen of artist's paint tubes, whilst invoking *Load* or *Save* brings up an artist's pencil-case screen. When you check your inventory on starting the interactive part of the adventure, you find a necklace already there, so the unseen introduction does have a pointer or two after all. It's your job to make some sense out of all this.

### The task

The introductory graphics and sound are quite impressive, although it is almost a

relief to reach the calmer, quieter phase of the game proper and get down to the quite difficult task of solving the various puzzles that are thrown your way during your travels. You need to check everything you come across, of course, and don't ignore the few people you meet. However, I won't be giving away too many secrets (because, as yet, I have solved very few of the problems).

### General comments

Most of the game material is accessed directly from the CD-ROM, but some is

installed to your hard disk to avoid holdups. Less than 3 MB of material is transferred in this way, so this is not a great hardship.

Graphics and sound are of acceptable quality and the voices are distinct.

### Acknowledgment

The review copy was kindly provided by Manacom Pty Ltd  
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# Windows 95: Dial-up networking

## OPERATING SYSTEMS

Jean D'Andrea



**Y**ou've just loaded Microsoft Windows 95 and you want to set up "Dial-up Networking." Do you have the information Melb PC sent you when you joined the Internet Service? This gives you all the DNS (Dynamic Name Server) addresses and other details you'll need—such as your starting password and user name. So, you may want it handy when you're going through the following setup process.

### Modem configuration

First, you'll need to configure your modem. If you chose the autoconfigure option during Windows 95 setup, your modem will already be configured. If not, the default "Comms Port" setting is usually "Port 2."

Set bps to whatever is best for your system—generally 38,400 for a 14.4 kbps modem, and 57,800 or higher for a 28.8 kbps modem. Select your brand of modem from the list. If it's not there, choose from the standard speeds at the beginning of the list.

"Connection" is the next section listed. The default—8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit—is correct. The port settings should already be there, as you've set them up earlier.

On the "Advanced Connection

Settings", tick the "Use flow control" setting, and ensure that "Hardware (RTS/CTS)" is selected. As usual, click "OK."

Then move to the "Extra settings" section. You can leave this blank, or you can enter whatever settings you prefer. I have "ATZ0" (that's "zero" not the letter "O").

At the bottom of the screen, you can tick "Record a log file." You don't have to, it's optional, but a log file can be useful if you have problems connecting. With it you'll have more information that can make it easier to track and identify the cause of your problem.

"Options" is pretty straightforward.

- Select "Bring up terminal window after dialling."
  - Set "0" (zero) seconds for the "Credit card tone."
  - Select whichever settings you prefer for the "Display modem status."
- Personally I like to see what's happening. Click "OK" as usual, and it's time to move on to the next section.

### Network settings

Now it's time to setup the "Network" through "Control Panel."

Go to "Start" on the "Task Bar," choose "Control Panel," then select "Network." A configuration menu appears, and you'll

be offered a choice of five options.

The first thing you'll need to do is clear the three network options that aren't required. Of course, if you are on a network, rather than a single PC, you will need one of these. To determine which one, I suggest you speak to your Network Administrator.

Assuming you are not on a network, highlight and remove the following:

- Client for Microsoft Network
- Client for NetWare networks
- Net BEUI

### Network adaptor

After you've cleared those three, the two remaining options are "Network adapter," and "IPX/SPX compatible protocol."

Let's start with "Dial-up Adapter." Highlight it and click "Add." Now highlight "Properties" and click it. From the list of manufacturers, select "Microsoft," tab to the right, and choose "Dial-up Adapter." When you've entered this you'll be offered yet another screen, from which you'll make the following selections.

### Driver type

Under this heading, choose "Enhanced mode," and click "OK."

### Bindings

The information in this section will be entered automatically by the program when you've made your other entries, so leave it blank.

### Advanced

You can leave this page with the default settings. Although, it's always handy to have a log file, so tick this option if you want one. Once you've done this click "OK" and you've completed this section.

But hold those sighs of relief; we've still got lots more to do!

### Protocol

Now we'll work on "Protocol." To do this, you'll have to go back to the "Configuration" menu. Highlight it and click "Properties." On the left, you'll see the list of manufacturers again. Once again, choose Microsoft, and tab to the right. Then, select "TCP/IP," and "OK."

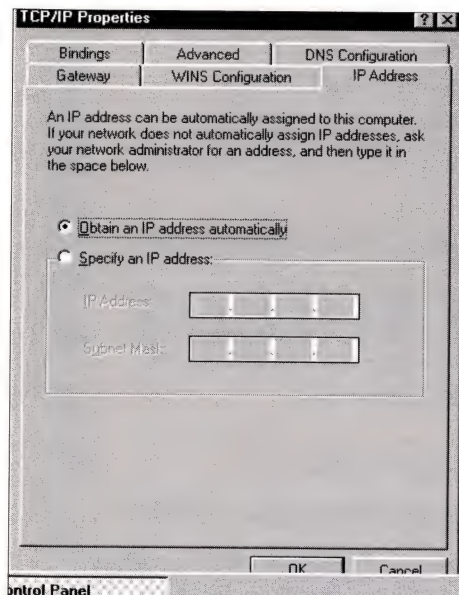


Figure 1. The IP Address screen in "Protocol."

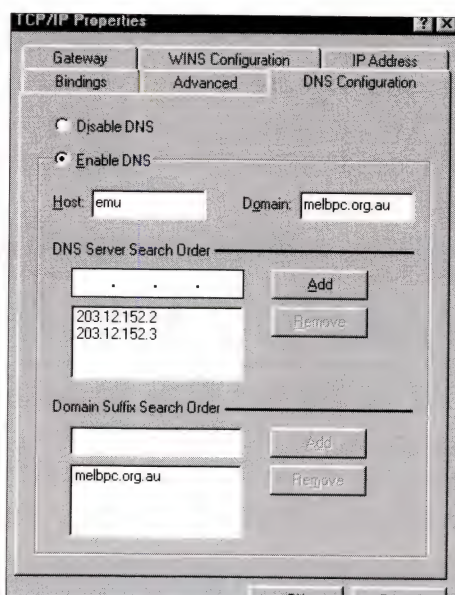


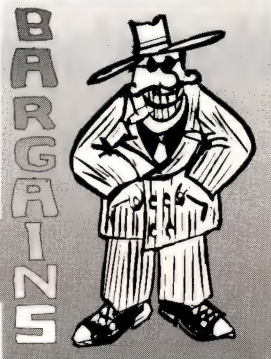
Figure 2. "DNS" has lots of settings!



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Infected disks are thrown out, without attempting to disinfect or recover data!

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32 MB 72-pin SIMM made by HYPERTEC (No parity). \$280

BIOS upgrade card ISA. Enables older BIOS versions to break the 528 MB barrier without software. \$60

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Spycraft, Zork Nemesis and Mech Warrior II. All original CD-ROMs with manuals. Will not sep. \$160

Danny (03) 9894 0199 (anytime)

#### Dial-Up Networking options

You need to make a new connection in Dial-up Networking. To get there, go through "Start." Select "Programs," then "Accessories," and finally, "Dial-up Networking." Highlight the "New Connection" icon, and another screen will appear (Figure 3).

Type in a name for the new connection, perhaps "Melbpc90", and go to "Next." Enter the 90-minute phone number, area code 03, and country, then click "Finish." *Melb PC's 90-minute number is (03) 9690 5999 and the 30-minute number is (03) 9690 5644.*

Return to the "Dial-up Networking" menu, then go to "Connection," and you will get a "Settings" screen. This is optional, but I suggest the following:

- 9 for "Redial"
- 2 seconds for time between dial attempts
- and the "Don't prompt to use Dial-up Networking" option.

Again click "OK", and we'll move on.

Highlight the "MelbPC90" icon in the Dial-Up Networking window, to "File" then select "Properties."

On the next screen, go to "Server type," and in the "Type of Dial-Up Server," choose the "PPP, Windows 95, Windows NT" option.

Further down the screen, tick "Log on to network," and "Enable software compression." When you click "OK," you'll be returned to the previous screen.

Next click on the "TCP/IP Settings." On this screen you'll need to select:

- Server assigned IP address
  - Server assigned name server address
  - IP header compression
  - Use default gateway on remote network
- Click "OK" three times as you leave each screen, and exit Dial-up Networking.

Congratulations! You've completed the setup. Now all you have to do is dial up, log in and start to surf the net.

You've done all the hard work, now it's time to enjoy yourself. Have fun!

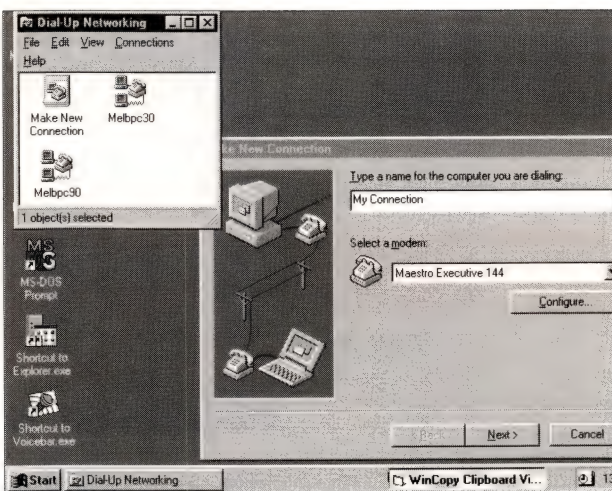


Figure 3. The "New Connection" icon.

#### IP Address

On the next menu, highlight "TCP/IP." Select "Properties" and click it. At the top of the next screen, (Figure 1) select "Obtain an IP address automatically."

#### Bindings and Advanced

These two items are again left blank, as "Bindings" is filled by "Dial-Up Networking", and nothing needs to be entered in "Advanced".

#### WINS

The only item that need be ticked on this screen is "Use DHCP for WINS Resolution". Once you've done that, click "OK" and move on to the next screen.

#### Gateway

This screen's another easy one, as you get to leave it blank.

#### DNS

There are quite a few settings to make on this screen. (Figure 2). At the top, select "Enable DNS," then move to "Host."

Enter "emu", but don't capitalise it. Next, in the "Domain" section, type "melbpc.org.au". Again, no capital letters. On the net, case is usually important, so always use upper/lower case letters exactly as written in any instructions you receive.

A little further down the screen, you'll see the heading "DNS Server Search Order." This is where you enter the DNS addresses from your information sheet.

Enter "203.12.152.2", click on "Add," then "203.12.152.3" and click on "Add."

Next we'll enter the "Domain Suffix Search Order," which is "melbpc.org.au". Again, click on "Add" then "OK."

This will take you back to the "Configuration" menu. About half way down the screen you'll see "Primary Network Log-on." Ensure that "Windows log-on" is selected, and click "OK".

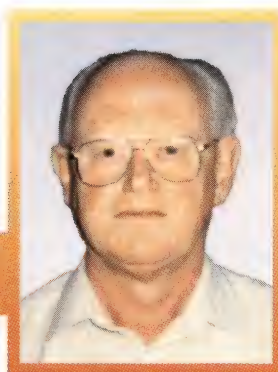
Now you can exit from "Network" and "Control Panel" and move on to the next section.



# Noah's Ark

## SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bob Burt



**T**his CD-ROM represents the first in a series of interactive stories from the Bible, designed specifically for children in the age range 4 to 10. Others currently available include *Jonah and the Whale*, *The Prodigal Son* and the story of *Joseph in Egypt*.

### Info Box

#### Noah's Ark

#### Minimum system requirements

- 386 DX/33, IBM-compatible computer
- Windows 3.1
- DOS 3.3
- 8 MB of RAM
- An MPC-compliant CD-ROM drive
- 256-colour display
- Mouse

The CD-ROM also contains a Macintosh version.

#### Availability and cost

Dataworks  
81 Eildon Parade  
Rowville VIC 3178  
Ph: (03) 9764 8344  
Fax: (03) 9763 2089  
RRP: \$79.95

The core of the current program is a set of 12 screens that develop the story of Noah building the Ark, collecting the animals, surviving the flood, searching for land and, finally, safely releasing the animals.

There are two versions of the story; *Story time 1* is designed for children aged 7 to 10 while *Story time 2* is for children aged 4 to 6. The pictorial content is identical for each group, but for the younger children the narration is simpler and shorter, and the text is displayed in larger letters.

Having established the main theme, the program cleverly offers nine reinforcing and appealing activities for children:

- *Writing time* for children to make up their own stories, colour the backgrounds and print out the completed exercises
- *Pair time* for children to match pairs of animals
- *Move time* for children to select and move figures and other objects to new positions
- *Balloon time* for children to explore the names of objects, which are revealed when the mouse pointer is moved to the object
- *Creation time* for children to modify the appearance of characters and

**objective is  
to produce  
humorous,  
nonviolent  
and ethical  
multimedia  
for children**

change their attire

- *Jigsaw time* for children to complete jigsaw puzzles created out of each of the 12 story screens. There are four-, nine- and 16-piece versions to suit all ages
- *Match time* for children to match words to pictures
- *Music time* for children to read and sing along with the songs written for the CD-ROM
- *Surprise time* for children to explore animations and sound by clicking on objects.

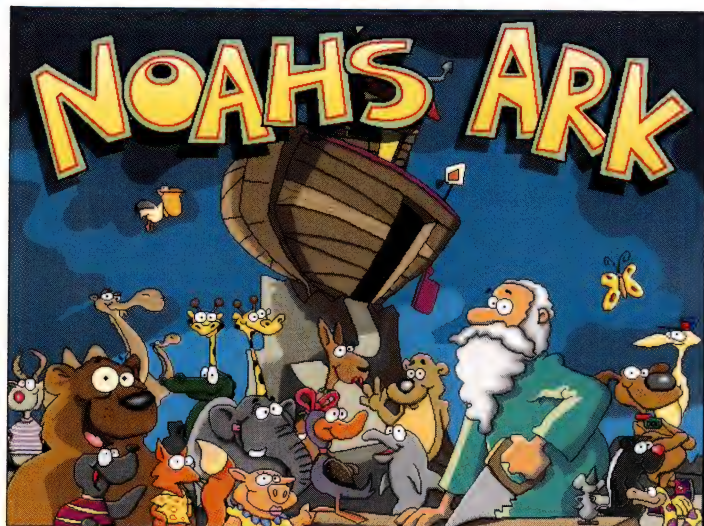


Figure 1. Introductory screen.

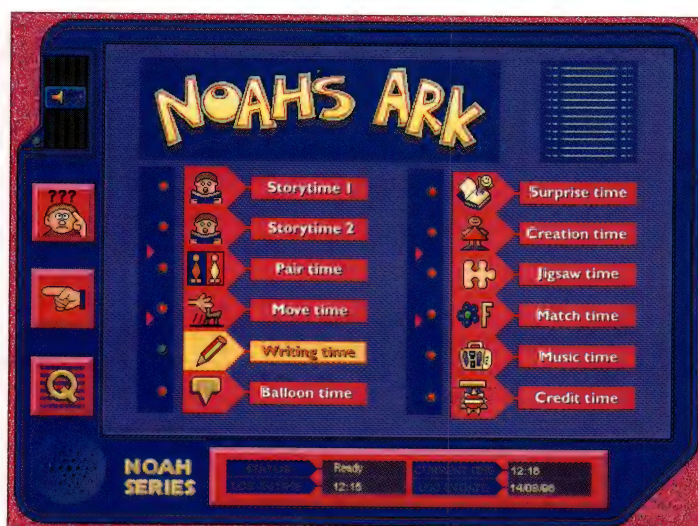


Figure 2. The menu.





Figure 3. Introducing the story.

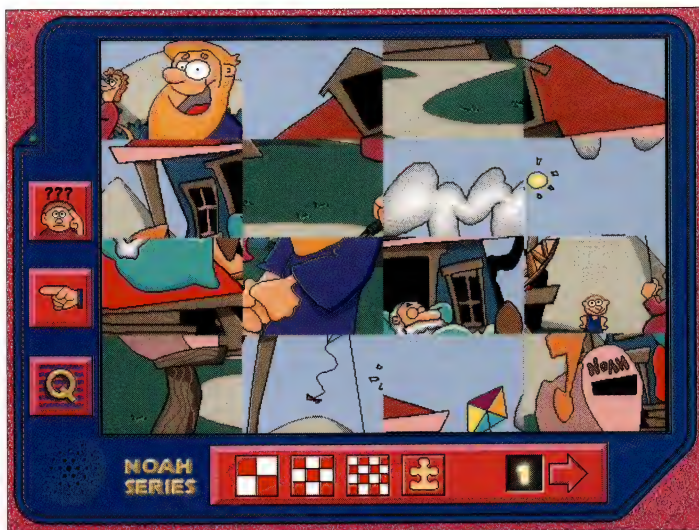


Figure 4. One of the 36 jigsaw puzzles.

### General comments

This is a very crisp production. The colours are attractive for young people and the audio is very clean. The animation will clearly appeal to most youngsters and the program will continue to occupy their attention for a long time. The only fault that I detected in the program was that when running *Music time*, the scrolling of the words of the song trailed the words of the singer (being played from the CD-ROM) by an increasing margin as the song progressed.

This program is the creation of David Ellsworth, an

Australian multimedia designer and producer, whose background is in graphic design and illustration. His experience shines through in the product. David's stated objective is to produce humorous, nonviolent and ethical multimedia for children.

### Acknowledgment

The review copy of Noah's Ark was kindly provided by the distributors,

Dataworks  
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Rowville VIC 3178,  
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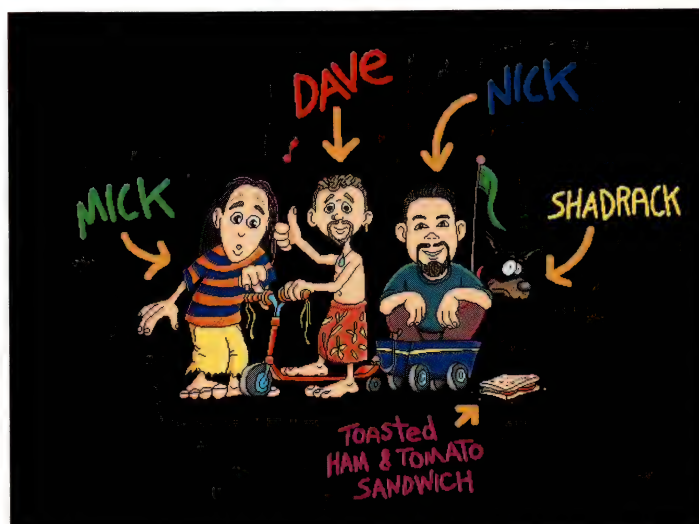


Figure 5. Exit screen.

## Help?

### FROM THE WEB

Stan Johnstone

**T**here was a recent cry for help in *melbpc.general*. I tried to help with an extract from TechNet, however it seems there is one among us with the ideal sense of humour for the Dial Help desk.

This was passed to me by the recipient of the advice.

*I have a couple of games that give the error "R6003 Integer Divide by 0" under Windows 95 but not under WFW 3.11. "Barbie CD" is one and "Metal Marines" is the other. Does anyone know of a*

*solution to this please?*

How about this reply from Carol Daniels?..

*Well that's your problem right there, these games can't exist on the same machine. Barbie keeps trying to get the leather necks to wear just a little lippie so they'll look nice in the jungle and the leather necks keep shooting Barbie on sight, right after singing a rousing chorus of "From the Halls of Montezuma."*

Carol—you made my day. □

## Protecting 3.5-inch floppy disks

Christopher Canham

**R**eusable plastic coin bags make good protective holders for 3.5-inch floppy disks. The sleeves the disks come in are easy to lose and can't be sealed. The coin bags—ask your bank teller for some—can be sealed. They have writing on one face, so store your disks with the label facing the other one. The coin bags hold three floppy disks each, handy for multiple disk sets. □



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**ACA Pacific** for the donation of a Diamond Stealth Video card for *PC Update* production.

**Artisoft Australia Pty Ltd** for the supply of software, equipment and services for the Group's Communication Centre.

**Computer Rebuilds** for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production and the group's BBS.

**Corel Corporation** for copies of CorelDRAW! and Corel Ventura Publisher used in the production of *PC Update*.

**Dell Computer Pty Ltd** for a Dell PowerLine 466SE PC to support the Internet service.

**Hayes Microcomputer Products Pty Ltd** for the supply of modems for the group's Communication Centre.

**Hewlett-Packard** for Vectra PCs, used for training, an HP4M laserJet printer for administration and a Vectra PC, ScanJet scanner and HP5Si MX LaserJet used in the production of *PC Update*.

**Michaels Camera & Video** for a Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

**Micrografx Australia Pty Ltd** for copies of Picture Publisher used in the production of *PC Update*.

**SEALCORP Computer Products Ltd** for the supply of equipment for the group's BBS.

**SONY Australia Pty Ltd** for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production.

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All members and guests  
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Parkville**

**6.00 pm  
First Wednesday  
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Stan Johnstone Meetings convener  
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meeting**



# Mimi and the Mites

## SHAREWARE GAME REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



**zap them,  
squish them,  
squash them,  
trap them,  
and just plain  
outwit them**

**M**imi and the Mites has a feisty female heroine with the sticky task of shutting down a mite production factory. Your task is to guide Mimi through to the exit door on each of the 50 levels. Simple, eh? But then there are the mites ...

Mites are little blue critters who swarm relentlessly after Mimi. The slightest touch from a mite and she has to start the level over again. You can't kill mites, but you can zap them, squish them, squash them, trap them, and just plain outwit them. Mimi can use trapdoors, teleports, trampolines, slides and lots of other contraptions to move around the screen, but the trick is to calculate which devices to use, and in which order. Mites are tricky creatures who can morph and leak through cracks in the floor, so Mimi has to be fast and decisive.

Mimi and the Mites is a puzzle game which looks deceptively simple and easy. Once you get the hang of it, the first few levels are quite straightforward, but it becomes harder and more addictive as you go along. Hints are available from time to time, and if you get stumped with one puzzle, you can bypass it after a certain number of attempts. The graphics are fairly plain and old-fashioned, but you forget this in the thrill of trying to master a level. Nevertheless, at \$50, Mimi and the Mites is quite an expensive game for what it offers.

### Info Box

#### Mimi and the Mites

#### Minimum system requirements

- IBM-compatible 386/33 processor, (486 recommended)
- 6 MB RAM (8 MB recommended)
- DOS 5.0
- VGA graphics
- CD-ROM drive
- 14.5 MB free hard disk space
- Joystick optional.

#### Availability and cost

Shareware, registered version RRP \$49.95.

Available from major software stockists.

Distributed by Manacomm

Ph: (03) 9569 6377

Fax: (03) 9569 9641

Classification: General (all ages).

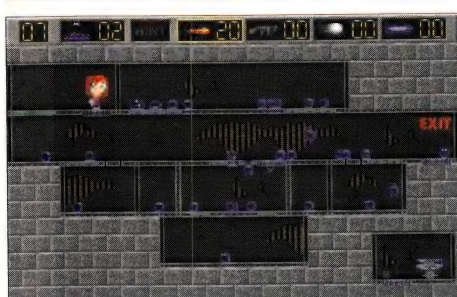


Figure 1. A puzzle screen from Mimi and the Mites.

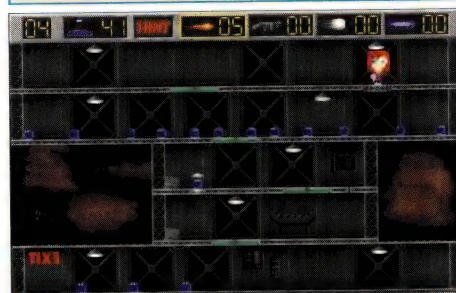


Figure 2. Another screen from Mimi and the Mites.

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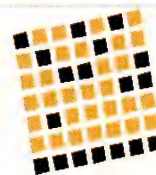
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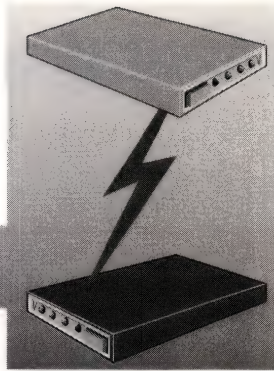
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# An Internet saga, with a happy ending

## A USER'S EXPERIENCES

Katharine Shade



I have been on the Internet, through Melb PC's Internet service, for over a year now, and have certainly had my share of problems. I have kept up-to-date with the messages in the Internet help area (LOC.26A) on the BBS, and have been part of many discussions about the problems people have had. I sometimes felt there were more questions than answers, but I muddled through, and now have quite successful Internet sessions (as well as the occasional, less successful one). I thought it might be useful to write down some of the solutions I have tried, in the hope that my experience might help other members.

I use Windows 3.11 on a 486/66 with 8 MB of RAM and the Melb PC SLIPKIT. The initial setup went smoothly, and I was grateful for the automatic presetting of many of the options.

I tried various software options, and eventually decided the best for me were Netscape for my web browser, Eudora for e-mail, and Free Agent for newsgroups. I find Eudora and Free Agent particularly useful. With them I download, then read and respond to e-mail and newsgroup messages, offline. I know that Netscape can be used for e-mail and newsgroups, but I find the other purpose-built programs superior in speed and functionality.

Although I hadn't had problems with the initial setup, my Internet experience was marred with problems from that point on. The problems were varied, but the most frustrating one was being disconnected in the middle of a session, for what appeared to be no reason at all. Almost as frustrating were the times when everything seized, in the middle of downloading, and everything just stopped.

There are a number of possible reasons for dropouts, finding the cause(s) of the problem(s) isn't always straightforward. If you are having trouble with frequent dropouts, use the following list of common causes and possible solutions as your starting point. Work your way through the list. Remembering as you do that your problem may be caused by a combination of influences. And learn from fellow members' experiences, check each possible cause, even if you are **positive** the problem is not at your end. It will save you time and frustration in the long run.

### 1. The wrong phone number

The 30-minute line cuts out after 30 minutes of online time. It doesn't matter which line the 30 minutes was accumulated on or how many calls it took to accumulate it. It's 30 minutes, total. Also note that an "Internet" day ticks over at around 4.30 am, not midnight. If you want to pool your time and get two days' time in one block, you'll have to time it accordingly.

### 2. Other devices on the line

The fewer the better for modem use. Disconnect any other devices (phones, fax machines, answering machines, etc) and see if that helps.

### 3. An older phone on the line

Some older phones (for example, early Touchfone 200) periodically interrupt the line, which can disrupt modem transmissions.

### 4. Call waiting

Do you disable it when you are online? You should! If someone calls when you are online, the call waiting tone can cause the modem to hang up. Disable call waiting before using the modem as follows:

- Dial #43# to disable call waiting
- Dial \*43# to reactivate call waiting after you finish a modem connection.

### 5. An old exchange

Are you on an old exchange? You'll have to ring Telstra to find out. Different regions often have different levels of interference and high interference can mean lots of dropouts.

### 6. Poorly matched modem and comms port

If you are using a modem faster than 14,400 bps, you'll also need a fast comms port. If your computer is over a year old, you may have an old UART chip on the comm port card. You probably need a 16550 UART. A new card will cost about \$50. Using a slow comms port with a fast modem will cause lots of overrun errors—the port can't cope with information coming through.

### 7. Modem to phone socket connection

The shorter the lead the better, and the newer the lead the better.

Most dropouts are caused by line noise and any or all of the above can contribute to line noise.

If you investigate all of these and still have problems with frequent dropouts you'll need to take an in-depth, technical approach to the problem. Note too that other, everyday occurrences—like extreme weather, line repair or upgrade work, etc.—can also create line noise. So an occasional dropout is no cause for panic.

If you do have a difficult problem to solve, ask questions on the BBS, in area LOC.26A and on the Internet, in the newsgroup *melbpc.modem*. When you do, include as much information as possible—your hardware and software setup, what you have already tried, a detailed description of the problem and the IP number of the line(s) from which you have been dropped—in your question. Have this information on hand if you call a Dial Help volunteer too. Don't forget to search the net for web sites that focus on your brand of modem and those that offer detailed, technical comms tips.

### About that happy ending

It took me a year to try point 7—and the results were miraculous. I bought a new lead and connected the modem straight into the wall. Since then I've rarely had problems with dropouts. I believe my problems were the result of a faulty lead, and having too many other connections on the line, including an older Telstra phone. Now my only problem is trying to log on in the evenings, when everybody else seems to be doing it, too!

Well that's not precisely true. My new, direct, modem-to-phone socket connection has solved my disconnect problems. But I still have problems with the system seizing up. Although I think I have found a remedy to that as well. The remedy seems strange, but it also appears to work.

Here it is, for what it's worth:

When the system seizes (by this I mean I don't seem to be receiving any information from Melb PC's end) I go into Trumpet, select "Manual Login" from the Dialler menu, type in some rubbish with a few returns in it, then press escape a few times. Hey presto! My connection fires up again! I have no rational explanation for this as yet—has anyone else tried it? □



# Clyde's Revenge

## SHAREWARE GAME REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



**T**hink of a game such as Commander Keen. Take away all the monsters and other shootable nasties. Add lots of treasure. Imagine Commander Keen as a daggy little chap with a walrus moustache and a magic wand ... and there you have Clyde's Revenge, a welcome change from the usual shoot-everything-that-moves game.

### Info Box

#### Clyde's Revenge

#### Minimum system requirements

- IBM-compatible 486/33
- 4 MB RAM
- Dos 5.0
- VGA graphics
- CD-ROM drive
- 0.5-10.5 MB free hard disk space depending upon whether you opt to play the game directly from the CD or install to your hard disk
- Joystick optional.

#### Availability and cost

Shareware, registered version RRP \$29.95.  
Available from major software stockists.  
Distributed by Manacomm  
Ph: (03) 9569 6377  
Fax: (03) 9569 9641  
Classification: General (8 years and over)

Your role is to help Clyde explore a series of ancient castles. There are lots of magical gems to collect, and hidden keys and secret doors to find. Clyde is the only living thing in the castles, but his mission certainly is not straightforward, with lava pits, dissolving floors, rotating spikes and all sorts of other character-building challenges. Clyde's only defence against all these traps is simple caution and his trusty magic wand which helps him dissolve some floors and walls.

There are several levels of difficulty, including a kiddie level in which Clyde's health always remains at 100 percent (except in certain circumstances which I'll let you discover for yourself). The game field is quite large, but scrolls very smoothly and some very nimble keyboard skills are required. On the downside, some of the keystrokes happen to be quite awkward and most of the castles are visually quite boring, tending to look and feel the same after a while.

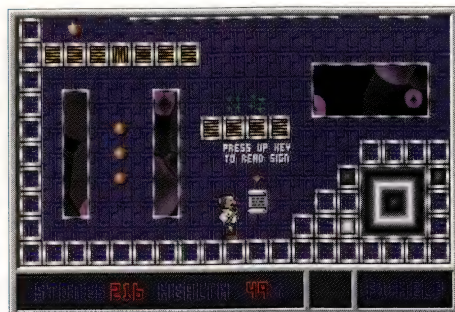


Figure 1. A screen from Clyde's Revenge

**a welcome change  
from the usual  
shoot-everything-  
that-moves game**

Clyde's Revenge is certainly less adrenalin-pumping than most brash and brawny shoot-em-ups; but while it has none of the blood and guts, it still manages to provide much of the leaping, bounding treasure-grabbing fun! □

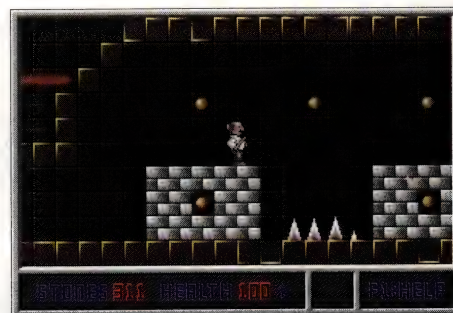


Figure 2. Another Clyde's Revenge screen.

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# Learning CorelDRAW! 3 & 6



## COREL CD HOME REVIEW

Bob Burt

Let me hasten to say at the outset that the title of this review may be a trifle misleading. The fact is, Corel has issued two entirely separate CD-ROMs to cover these interactive, multimedia training courses, one each for CorelDRAW! version 3 and CorelDRAW! version 6.

While virtually all my comments are based on my use of *Learning CorelDRAW! 6* (LCD6), readers interested in *Learning CorelDRAW! 3* (LCD3) can rest

assured that the style and delivery of information is very similar to that for version 6.

It is indeed so similar that their 12-page manuals, which fit snugly inside the cover of the CD-ROM cases, are virtually identical. The only differences are the references to the version numbers and one unique section in each package, *Browse* in LCD3, which is replaced by the *New Features of CorelDRAW! 6* in LCD6.

### Setting up

Installation to your hard disk is quick and very economical on space. Links for the Program listings, are all that is needed for running under Windows 95. For running under Windows 3.1x, you'll need to set up program icons in Program Manager. For a full screen display you will need to use a 640 x 480 resolution screen driver. Of course, you need to keep the relevant CD-ROM in the drive when you are running the program.

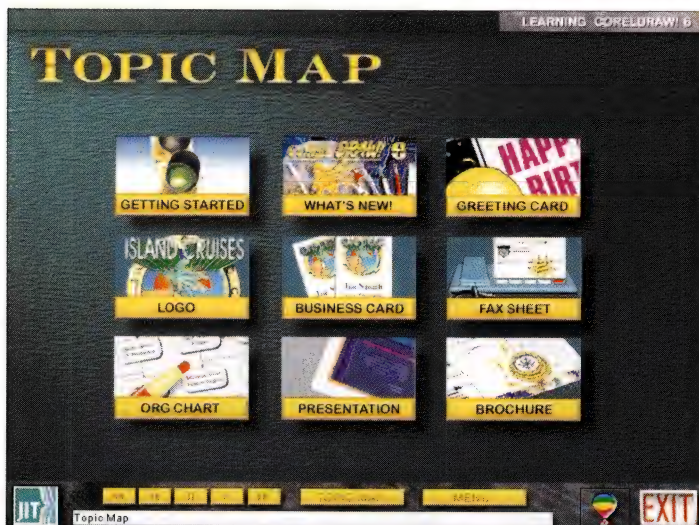


Figure 1. The Topic map.

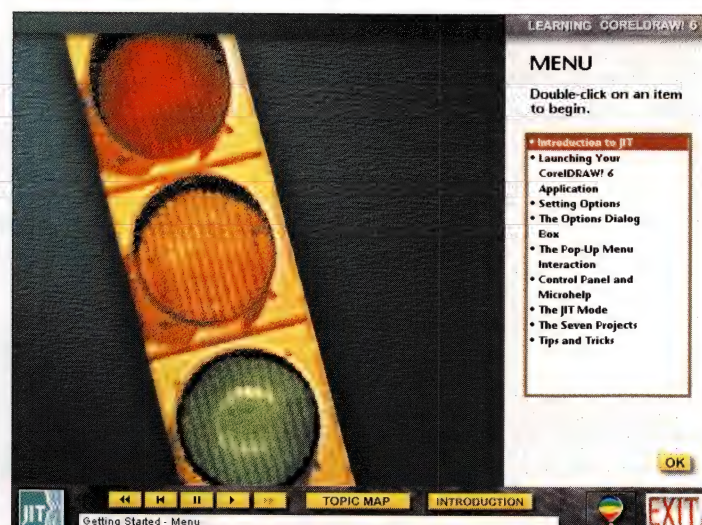


Figure 2. Using the Menu.

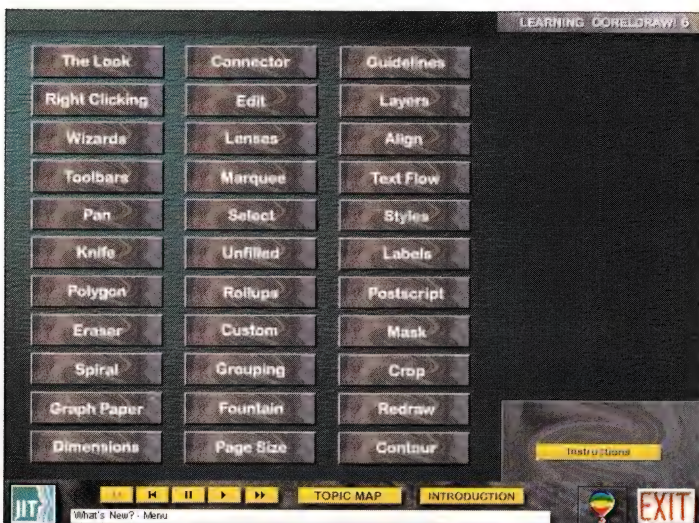


Figure 3. Key to new features of CorelDRAW 6.

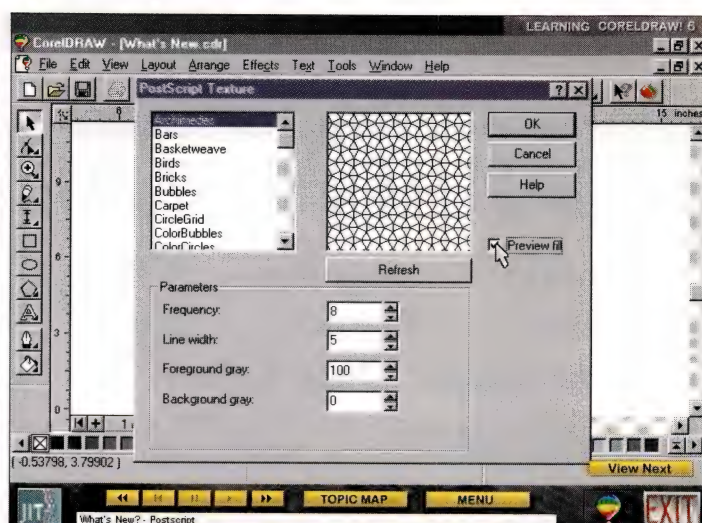


Figure 4. Demonstrating PostScript fills.



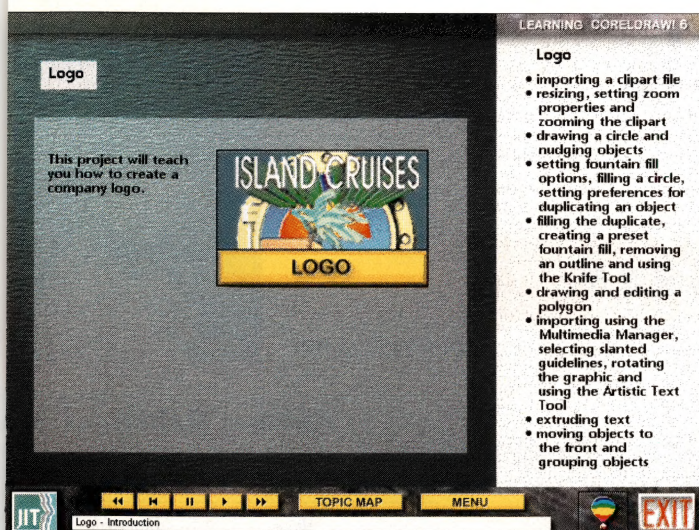


Figure 5. The Company Logo project.

## Main features

The main menu or *Topic Map*, as it is called, is equipped with nine large icons. Clicking on any of these gives you access to the corresponding learning module. Each learning module guides you through a self-contained project, using a combination of audio, graphics and text to assist you in the process.

I have already mentioned one of the sections. The remaining eight are

- *Getting Started*, an introductory module
- *Logo*, a simple graphic design project
- *Business Card*, a project combining graphics and text features
- *Fax Sheet*, a somewhat more venturesome project
- *Organisation Chart*, a project with more elements
- *Presentation*, an even more complex project
- *Brochure*, the final project

The style is similar in all modules. Each starts with an introduction, using both voice and text. Then comes the module's

menu, from which you select a subject to follow. Although initially you tend to complete each subject in turn, after a while you become more selective in your choices.

There is a *Control Panel* at the bottom of the screen that offers you a choice of buttons. By clicking on these you can perform various functions within the program, for example you can return to the *Topic Map* whenever you wish. The panel is also equipped with VCR-style buttons, so you can pause, repeat or skip parts of a learning module.

As you progress, a *Tips and Tricks* dialog box appears periodically. Respond to it, and you'll be offered additional material relating to the current topic.

If you have the corresponding version of CorelDRAW! installed on your computer, LCD3 (or LCD6) maintains a link to it. So you can click on the Corel balloon button at any time to jump into CorelDRAW! and practise what you are learning. A corresponding *Learn DRAW 3* or *Learn DRAW 6* button appears on your Windows 95 taskbar for a quick

return to the learning module.

Finally, there is what is called a "jit" button on the *Control Panel*. Click on the jit button for access to a range of subjects, tasks or tools that are presented to you using audio, graphics and text. Why jit? The rather strange name is an acronym for *Just In Time* and its logo is a trademark of *JIT Learning Products Inc.* So now you know.

## Conclusion

These project-based, instruction programs are designed to teach you the tools and functions of CorelDRAW!, and they do this in a masterly manner. What is the extent of their content? Well, the claim is that each CD-ROM contains the equivalent of two days of classroom training and certainly it is clear that all the major creative features of CorelDRAW! are given the attention they merit. LCD3 (or LCD6) may not turn you into an expert, but completing either of them will certainly help you along the way, in a very agreeable fashion. □

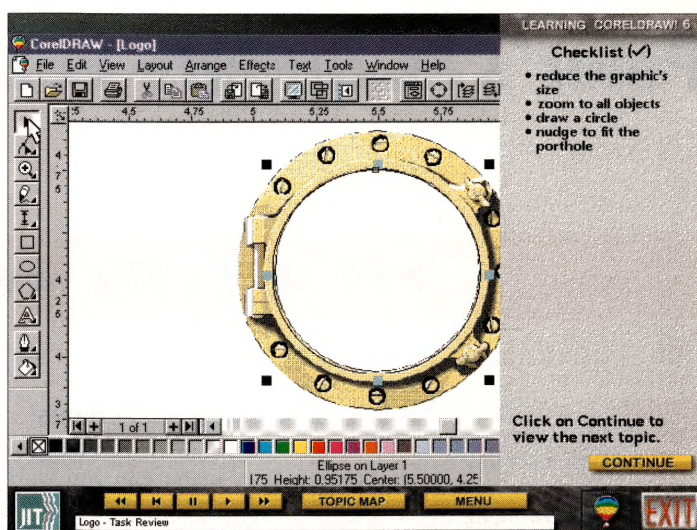


Figure 6. Manipulating a graphic image.



Figure 7. Subjects available by clicking the JIT button.

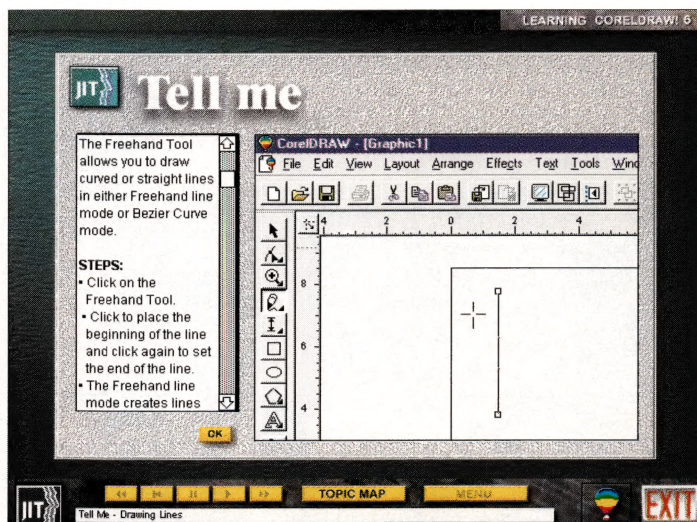


Figure 8. The JIT description of the Freehand tool.



# Peter's PC Update Puzzle

WIN A COREL CD-ROM

Peter Smith



**T**hese puzzles are designed to be solved without using a computer—if a bird-brain can write them, another bird-brain can solve them!

Solve the puzzles (you may use plain paper or a photocopy—you do not need to mutilate your *PC Update*) and send your entry to

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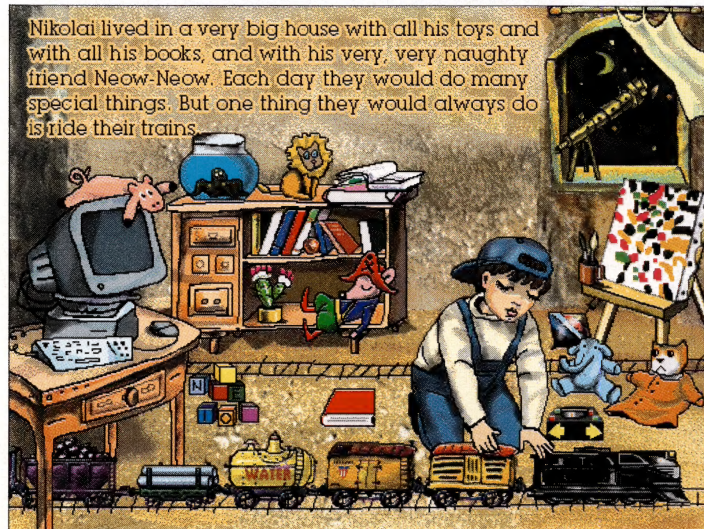
to arrive by Thursday 31 October.

We'll publish the solutions and the winner in the December *PC Update*. September's solutions and winner will be in November's magazine.

No, entries cannot be accepted by fax or e-mail; good old-fashioned snail-mail gives everyone an equal opportunity and won't clog up my e-mail or fax! Also please don't send entries to the Melb PC office—they are busy enough.

## Prize

This month's prize is a copy of the Corel CD HOME *Nikolai's Trains*, which Bernadette Houghton reviewed in the April 1996 issue of *PC Update*. Below are two screen shots from this entertaining CD-ROM, for children from ages 4 to 8.



Nikolai lived in a very big house with all his toys and with all his books, and with his very, very naughty friend Neow-Neow. Each day they would do many special things. But one thing they would always do is ride their trains.

## Bridge Partners

Four friends met for their weekly bridge night. Can you work out who sat where and what occupation each has?

1. The nurse and the programmer are engaged to each other.
2. The engineer and Samuel were bridge partners.
3. Sally sat on the salesperson's right.
4. Sarah sat in the west seat.
5. Steve did not partner the nurse.

## Hints

Bridge, players sit at a square table, where the seats are designated North, East, South and West, in clockwise order. Partners sit facing each other.

## Perambulating Proverbs

Each proverb has its vowels left in place, but every consonant has been replaced by a number. (The numbers may not represent the same letter in each proverb.)

## Results

Billy Hunt won August's prize.

## Solutions

EXILE, XENON, INEPT, LOPER, ENTRE  
Absence makes the heart grow fonder.  
Speech is silver but silence is golden. □

## Answer Grids

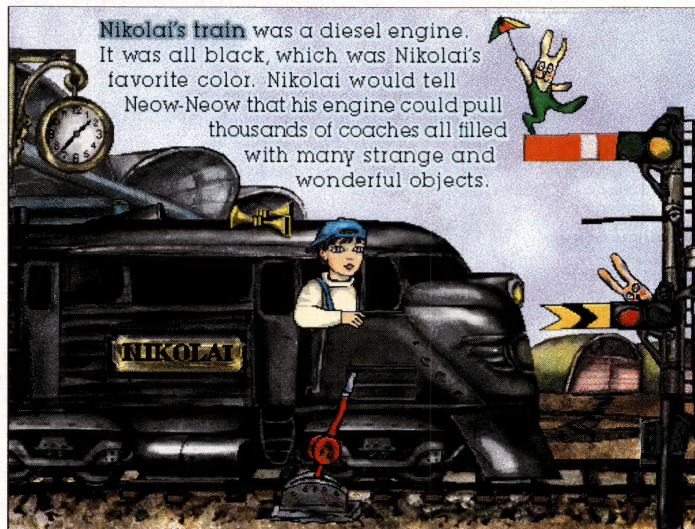
### Bridge Partners

	Name	Occupation
North		
East		
South		
West		

### Perambulating Proverbs

1	e	2	2	1	a	3	1	4	o
5	u	6	7	2	i	8	e	a	
9	o	0	a	4	\$	+	o	6	4

1	u	2	2	e	1	1	3	a	1
4	a	5	6	7	a	8	3	e	9
0	u	8	7	a	i	\$	u	9	e
i	1	a	5	o	9	+	3	a	5



Nikolai's train was a diesel engine. It was all black, which was Nikolai's favorite color. Nikolai would tell Neow-Neow that his engine could pull thousands of coaches all filled with many strange and wonderful objects.





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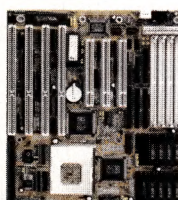


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s - built-in stereo speakers  
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